

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 6th November, 2019.

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

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

Also in attendance: Emily Hill, Elise Watson, Elise Watson (Bright Minds Big Future), Rebecca Whelan, Principal - Abbey Hill, Melissa Fisher, Vice Principal, Abbey Hill, Emily Carr - Headteacher, Sophie Johnson, Brokerage Manager, Bishopton PRU

Apologies: Cllr Andrew Sherris, Rachel Campbell, Deputy Headteacher – Bishopton PRU

CYP 20/19 **Evacuation Procedure**

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

CYP 21/19 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared,

CYP 22/19 **Minutes from the meeting held on 11th September and 9th October 2019 for approval / signature**

Consideration was given to the minutes from the meeting held on the 11th September and 9th October 2019.

AGREED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th September and 9th October 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

CYP 23/19 **Bright Minds Big Future - 6 Month Update**

Consideration was given to the update provided by the Chair and Head of Education, Bright Minds Big Future which included:

Members were introduced the (BMBF) Bright Minds Big Future 'Big Plan' to inform the Committee what the Youth Council want to happen in the Borough for our young people.

The presentation from the Bright Minds Big Future included updates on their work including:

- The Big Committee had begun to create a space at Calvin House to make headway on the Big Plan
- Developing a 'Green' BMBF approved award

- Launching 'Pay as you Prom' scheme
- Plans for special transport passes for SEND and all children with learning difficulties to help young people's life more manageable
- Creating safe spaces for children, allowing them not to feel penalised for being young, trying to alter the Social care perception
- Working with schools around fitness and leisure
- BMBF were committed to creating a sensory garden for people with disabilities
- BMBF have created a branch of Healthwatch called New Health which has sent a survey out to schools about mental health and wellbeing. They have also approached Public Health regarding better lesson plans on RSE in schools
- The Big Committee want to promote Diversity and Equality amongst all young children in the Borough and would like to create a small gathering for people who do feel different or not welcome in society
- To continue their work The Big Committee would like further meetings with Councillors and Officers
- The priority moving forward was to complete the BMBF Hub
- BMBF confirmed that they were happy to work with local Town Councils to offer ideas
- The Big Committee were happy to work with schools on alternative methods for young people getting to school i.e. reduced bus fares and better bus routes

AGREED that the presentation be noted.

**CYP
24/19** **Scrutiny Review of Careers Provision**

Members received information as part of the Scrutiny Review of Carers Provision from the Principal, Vice Principal, of Abbey Hill School and the Headteacher and Brokerage Manager of Bishopton PRU.

The presentation from Abbey Hill School included:

- Abbey Hill School supported children with learning and physical disabilities, it had a Sixth Form provision and 92% of secondary students attended the Sixth Form; the school also had links to other colleges
- The vocational offer was important to students and there was a huge enrichment offer so students could explore their interests, develop confidence and support their mental health and wellbeing

- The school worked hard to balance realism with aspirations
- Abbey Hill had a Careers Adviser and a Business Partner who assisted with mock interviews and job applications and worked hard to demonstrate what the students had to offer local employers, for example through work experience placements secured with local companies
- The school had achieved 100% in all eight of the Gatsby Benchmarks
- All pupils left with a diploma in preparing for adulthood
- Abbey Hill worked hard to ensure opportunities were available for all students from year 7 to year 12. They held job of the month assemblies and had created facilities within the school such as: hair salon, music studio, bistro twice a week and a woodland area; a careers fayre was also held
- The school promoted activities on the school's Facebook page and Twitter. It was important to overcome the barriers that the children faced and promote what Abbey Hill children were capable of achieving

Members were shown a promotional video highlighting aspects of the school life and what the students had to offer potential employers.

The main issues discussed during the presentation and in response to the Committee's questions were as follows:

- As well as time and resources, the school confirmed its biggest challenges had been finding meaningful employer encounters opportunities, university visits and securing external advice (now provided by Youth Direction)
- The school confirmed they compared their performance against the Gatsby Benchmark against mainstream schools

The presentation from Bishopton PRU included:

- The school was for children who had been permanently excluded from mainstream school. The staff worked with each child to give them a sense of 'self' as most of them felt they did not deserve the same offer as other children
- The school also offers Functional Skills qualifications
- Bishopton PRU worked hard to offer a therapeutic offer to students to support SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning). For example, pupils were involved in interviewing new staff as this made them feel part of the school and gave them self-belief and feel valued
- The school held CASTLE days which focused entirely on careers and employers and police were invited to come into school and talk to students
- The school had achieved 100% in 7 of the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks; Benchmark 3 needed further work
- Year 11 were targeted to work closely with Youth Direction

- All staff at Bishopton were trained in (CEIAG) Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance
- Outdoor provision focused on life outside the classroom and employability skills
- The school provided a strong and stable careers programme which continued to evolve. For example, in Key Stage 2 some of the pupils became Dementia Friends and visited local Care Homes and Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils were given the opportunity to go into local schools
- Monitoring and evaluation supported review of careers provision and the school had obtained the Careers Quality Mark and had been named a beacon school
- The school adopted an open door policy and were always keen to showcase what the pupils had to offer
- The school promoted their achievements on LinkedIn and Twitter and had recently been asked to contribute to a Careers Brochure

The main issues discussed during the presentation and in response to the Committee's questions were as follows:

- The school wanted to see more engagement from parents; future plans included supporting parents back into employment
- Challenges for the school including rising school rolls and that they had a fluid core group. This meant that close working with Youth Direction was vital in order to get timely support for pupils

Members commented that both presentations were extremely positive and both schools extended an invitation for Members to visit the schools.

AGREED the presentations be noted.

**CYP
25/19**

SEND Inspection Outcomes

Consideration was given to the SEND Inspection Outcome:

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- The inspection carried out by OFSTED and CQC in February 2019 resulted in a WSOA (Written Statement of Action).
- There were 4 areas of focus for the WSOA:
 - Coproduction, engagement and communication with parents are underdeveloped.
 - The quality of EHC assessments and place is too variable.
 - Strategic joint commissioning in a way that demonstrably improves EHC provision and outcomes for children, young people and families is not fully embedded.

- Local area leaders have not developed an effective approach to measuring and evaluating EHC outcomes for children and young people.

- The Action Plan needed to evidence impact and would be monitored until 2021.
- Members noted it was positive that the negative comments were in relation to communication and not delivery of service.

AGREED that The SEND Inspection Outcomes be noted.

**CYP
26/19** **School Performance**

Members received information regarding School Performance which included:

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- Schools in the Borough were performing better than in previous years and in most cases better than the national average
- It was confirmed there was variable performance across secondary schools which required more work to be done

AGREED that information received regarding Schools Performance be noted.

**CYP
27/19** **Select Committee Work Programme**

Consideration was given to the Children and Young People Select Committee Work Programme for 2019–2020.

AGREED that draft recommendation from the Scrutiny Review Careers Provision be considered by the Committee in December 2019 with a view to approving the final report in January 2020.

**CYP
28/19** **Chair's Update**

The Chair had nothing further to update the Committee.