

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 19th February, 2020.

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

Officers: Martin Gray, Ian Caley (CS), Judy Trainer, Rebecca Saunders-Thompson (MD)

Also in attendance: Cllr Lisa Evans (Cabinet Member for Children & Young People), Peter Smith (Stockton-on-Tees Healthwatch – Vice Chair)

Apologies:

CYP 38/19 Evacuation Procedure

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

CYP 39/19 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Watson declared a personal interest in item 6 as a neighbour owns a school clothing company.

CYP 40/19 Minutes from the meeting held on the 4th December 2019 for approval / signature

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2019 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

CYP 41/19 Healthwatch Annual Report 2018/19

Members were presented with the Healthwatch Stockton-on-Tees Annual Report 2018/19. Members received information on the report and the work of Healthwatch which included:

- A key priority for this year had been an assessment of the work of Suicide Prevention and Mental Health services, including Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Healthwatch consult the views of parents and carers as part of their work to improve health and social care services
- Healthwatch officers were working with Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF) members to find out what priorities young people have in terms of health and social care services. BMBF members had taken part in face to face discussions and online consultations
- Healthwatch would like to ensure that they are consulting with a wide range of young people, and asked if members could suggest any other groups of young people who could be contacted to complete surveys

The Committee requested the following further information:

- The results/report of Healthwatch's work with CAMHS.

AGREED That the Annual Report be noted.

**CYP
42/19** **Scrutiny Review of Careers Provision**

Consideration was given to the draft final report and recommendations.

Members asked if it could be stated in the executive summary that the Gatsby Benchmarks had been positively received by schools.

It was noted that the work from the scrutiny review was already having a positive impact on schools in the Borough.

AGREED that the final report be approved for submission to Cabinet.

**CYP
43/19** **Scrutiny Review of the Cost of School Uniform**

Consideration was given to the Scope and Project Plan of the cost of school uniform.

The main issues/services that would be covered by the review included:

- The issues raised by residents about the cost of school uniform and the opportunities locally to support parents in meeting those costs.
- It was recognised that the Council had a limited role on this issue and it was largely a matter for schools. The focus of the review would therefore be on working with schools to identify the issues for them and for parents and identifying if there are options to support parents in meeting the costs of school uniform.
- Evidence would be provided from SBC Children's Services, Schools, SBC/SDAIS, Parents groups, BMBF, Other Local Authorities and students.

The Committee requested further information as follows:

- Members requested that evidence from foodbanks be gathered during the review to document the provisions/support given to those who cannot afford to purchase uniform.
- Members would like to explore the relationship between schools and uniform suppliers. Members would also like to determine if uniform recycling schemes exist in schools.
- Members requested that parents are surveyed on whether the cost of school uniform influences their decision when applying for school places.

AGREED that the draft scope and project plan of the review be approved subject to the amendments above.

**CYP
44/19** **Overview Reports 2020**

Consideration was given to the Overview Report 2020 for Children's Services.

- It was noted that text was missing from point 9 and should read: ...

"The new 0-19 service continues to see improvements in the rate at which visits for early years have increased."

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- Point 7 of the report was highlighted regarding the significant increase in the take up of early years provision for disadvantaged two year olds.
- Members were informed that the rate at which children leave care remains low compared to geographical and statistical neighbouring Authorities and needs to increase if the rate of children in care is to be reduced.
- Topic suggestions for the Scrutiny Work Programme 2020-21 included:

- o A review of our approach to early years support, with a specific focus on the extent to which we are identifying additional needs early enough, as a means of improving school readiness and reducing demand for statutory assessment.

- o A review of the issues and business case associated with the development of more in house residential care provision.

- o Performance and effectiveness in ensuring that care leavers are able to access education, employment and training opportunities

AGREED that the information be noted and the proposed topic suggestions be put forward for the scrutiny work programme 2020/21.

CYP 45/19 Select Committee Work Programme 2019/20

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

The next meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee would be on 18 March 2020.

CYP 46/19 Chairs Update

The Chair had nothing to update.