

Children & Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children & Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 16th December 2020.

Present: Cllr Carol Clark (Chairman), Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Clare Gamble, Cllr Ray Godwin, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Lauriane Povey, Cllr Alan Watson (sub for Cllr Tony Hampton), Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Sally Ann Watson

Officers: Martin Gray, Dave Willingham, Lesley Harrison, Craig Piggott (CS), Michael Henderson, Rebecca Saunders-Thompson, Judy Trainer (DS)

Also in attendance: Liam Twizell (Healthwatch)

Apologies: Cllr Tony Hampton

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 Healthwatch Report - The Impact of Covid-19 on Young People July - August 2020

Liam Twizell (Healthwatch) presented the report and findings which had followed a survey undertaken with 28 young people up to the ages of 20. The survey aimed to gather their experiences of living through the pandemic and any concerns they might have about the future.

Following the presentation, the Select Committee discussed the report; the main issues highlighted were:

- A high proportion of respondents had turned to family for help and support
- There was a high level of concern about exams; Members queried how many of the young people surveyed were in years 11 and 13
- The number of responses was disappointing, and it was acknowledged that many of the usual engagement routes normally open to Healthwatch were not available due to restrictions
- The case studies were particularly interesting and enlightening
- It was queried whether there had been engagement with Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF) as part of the survey
- The Director of Children's Services undertook to forward on the survey findings to TEWV Mental Health Trust to help with marketing of the Kooth service

AGREED that the report be noted, and the further information highlighted above be provided to Select Committee Members.

4 Scrutiny Review of Care Leavers EET

The Select Committee received an introductory presentation from officers setting out background and context for the review.

Information on the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 has been circulated with the agenda papers.

The presentation covered the following areas:

- Youth Direction NEET and Progression Team
 - Aims and structure
 - How we are measured
 - Recording of Information
 - The Stockton Picture
 - For October 2020 in the Year 12 and Year 13 Stockton cohort we had 4209 in the following destinations:
 - 3461 in Education
 - 280 in Employment
 - 175 in Training
 - 23 on Re-engagement courses
 - 217 are NEET
 - 53 are Not Known
 - Comparative Data
 - Stockton NEET 2020 was at 5.2% compared to 4.2% in 2019 showing an *increase* of 1% due to the fact we reduced our Not Known cohort
 - Stockton Not Known 2020 was at 1.3% compared to 6.7% in 2019 showing a *decrease* of 5.4%
 - Stockton NEET & Not Known combined for October 2020 was 6.4% compared to 10.8% in 2019 showing a *decrease* of 4.4%
 - The North East Average for NEET & Not Known combined was 9.6% showing Stockton as being 3.2% *lower* with the average for England at 13.7% with Stockton 7.3% *lower*
 - Out of all the Local Authorities, Stockton were ranked *joint 33rd* for their combined total with the lowest recorded as Cheshire East at 2.4% and the highest Hammersmith & Fulham at 48.5%
 - In learning data for Stockton was 91.5% in October 2020 compared to 87.5% in 2019 an *increase* of 4%. The North East average was 88.7% showing Stockton being *higher* by 2.8% with the average for England at 85.2% with Stockton being 6.3% *higher*
 - Out of all the Local Authorities Stockton were ranked *39th* with the highest being Rutland at 96.9% and the lowest being Hammersmith & Fulham at 51.5%
 - Stockton in Care and Care Leaver Data
 - Importance of EET
- Leaving Care Service
 - Legislative Framework
 - Aim and structure

- Leaving Care Status
 - Eligible Care Leaver (16/17 and a CIOC) - 78
 - Relevant Care Leaver (16/17 and left care) - 4
 - Former Relevant Care Leaver (18+ and left care) - 155
 - Qualifying Care Leaver (not completed 13 weeks CIOC) – 5
- Young People
 - 242 active care leavers
 - Under 18 = 82
 - Over 18 = 160
 - Total = 242

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- Guardianship Orders
- Additional DWP funding for young people with a disability
- Challenges in keeping in contact particularly where young people move out of area and challenges with particular age groups

A more detailed breakdown would be presented to the Select Committee in January together with further information about the various officer roles.

AGREED That the information be noted.

5 Select Committee Work Programme

AGREED That the Work Programme be noted.

6 Chair's Update

The Chair had no update.