

Children and Young People Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 3 February 2015

Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)

School Organisation and Admission Arrangements

The aim of the Select Committee review has been to ensure that the process and criteria for identifying priorities for 2014/15 has been transparent and robust and then to be involved in ensuring that the statutory public consultation is carried out appropriately. The Committee will also consider the consultation feedback and will be scrutinising the outcomes and report to Cabinet on recommendations in March 2015, prior to lodging with Secretary of State in April 2015.

To date the Select Committee have:

- reviewed presentations and background information
- had input into the key principles to be considered as part of developing the proposals for consultation
- reviewed and commented on the clarity of the information being provided to parents
- commented on the pre-statutory consultation timetable and details of consultees
- reviewed the proposals for pre-statutory consultation

On 20 November, the Select Committee were provided with finalised proposals following pre-statutory consultation prior to the statutory consultation commencing. The Select Committee noted that during the pre-statutory consultation period, the proposals had evolved to take on board feedback from schools and parents. The Select Committee commended officers on the transparency and inclusivity of the pre-statutory consultation process, commenting that the consultation had been a genuine and worthwhile exercise resulting in improved proposals. The Committee were satisfied that the revised proposals for statutory consultation had taken on board comments received and commended them to Cabinet on 4 December.

The outcome from the statutory consultation and final proposals will be considered further by the Select Committee on 26 February prior to the Select Committee making recommendation to Cabinet on 12 March.

Transition from Primary to Secondary

Following receiving an introductory presentation from Diane McConnell on 15 October, Committee Members have been visiting primary and secondary schools in the Borough to talk to staff and pupils about their experience of transition and how this could be improved. Visits have taken place to:

- Egglecliffe School – Cluster meeting with primary schools
- Collaborative Network meeting to launch the sprint tracker with secondary schools
- Junction Farm Primary School
- Our Lady and St Bede's Secondary Academy
- Thornaby Academy
- St Cuthbert's RC Primary School Primary

The full Committee also met with staff and pupils from Conyers School and Wolviston Primary and received an update transition work undertaken by the School Improvement Service.

The Committee will be formulating draft recommendation at their meeting on 18 February with a view to reporting to Cabinet on 12 March.

Task and Finish Review of Child Sexual Exploitation

The overall aim of this task and finish review will be to assess whether the Council's and partners' VEMT (Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing, Trafficked) arrangements are effective in dealing with CSE in the Borough.

The Group have met to receive introductory information and presentations and have met with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Corporate Director in order to better understand governance arrangements around the issues. Further meetings are arranged during January and February to take evidence around schools and support and speak with providers.

The Group will report back to Children and Young People Select Committee on 26 February prior to reporting to Cabinet on 12 March.