

Children and Young People Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 5 March 2015

Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)

School Organisation and Admission Arrangements (Phase 1)

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.

The outcome from the statutory consultation and final proposals will be considered further by the Select Committee on 3 March prior to the Select Committee making recommendations to Cabinet on 12 March.

Transition from Primary to Secondary

Committee Members have visited 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.

Conclusions

School visits highlighted examples of best practice including:

- using Credit Unions to support parents in affording getting their children ready for secondary school
- one way systems for facilitating movement in corridors
- eye level signing to enable students to find their way around and colour coordination of different areas
- purchasing uniform and kit ready for all students
- choosing a piece of writing from Year 6 to be fixed in every Year 7 book as a marker of the standard to progress from
- mentoring programmes with secondary students and Year 6 students in order to prepare students for secondary school and support them with a 'buddy'
- Use of sporting ambassadors and student leader in transition work
- Joint events between primary and secondary
- Summer schools

Although many examples of best practice existed, there was a variation in the

transition arrangements across schools in the Borough and more consistency was needed in respect of transfer arrangements and a common understanding of attainment.

Members identified that there should be:

- Greater collaboration between primary and secondary schools:
 - Through cluster meetings and collaborative networks
 - Joint moderation work
 - Subject collaboration
 - Staff spending more time in primaries and vice versa
- A consistent approach to tracking attainment
- A Borough Wide transition week and transition project

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 has been 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 now considered a range evidence including:

- Council Officers
- Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Chief Executive and Corporate Director
- Schools
- Providers and Support Services
- Key Partners
- Chair of the LSCB

The Group will report back to Children and Young People Select Committee on 3 March prior to reporting to Cabinet on 12 March.