

Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update September 2021

Scrutiny Review – Care Leavers EET	
Achieved since last meeting	The Final Report and recommendations were approved by Cabinet in July and an Action Plan was considered by the Select Committee at its September meeting.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	N/A
On track – yes / no	A progress update will be presented to the Select Committee in 12 months.

Scrutiny Review – Child Poverty	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>The review will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collate and analyse data • Identify potential solutions • Focus on a range of linked issues including digital divide, FSM eligibility • Review the approaches in other areas • Result in the basis of a child / family poverty strategy for adoption by the Council <p>A series of themes meeting are planned over the year.</p> <p>In July, the Select Committee received introductory presentations from the North East Child Poverty Committee and Public Health. This provided some important context for the review and included definitions of child poverty together with data setting out the national and regional picture, causes of child poverty and impact.</p> <p>The September meeting focused on income poverty and a presentation was received from Ian Bartlett from Stockton and District Advice and Information Service and Chair of the Infinity Partnership. The presentations highlighted the types of enquiries into the Service, food bank take-up and the impact of benefit changes.</p> <p>A presentation was also received from Martin Gray on a new approach which was being developed to tackle inequality in the Borough. The work complemented the scrutiny review which was highlighted as an element of the work.</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	The third evidence session for this review in October will focus on food poverty

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On track – yes / no	The review will report to Cabinet in May 2022.
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Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or concerns	There have been no performance items submitted since the last update.
Problems or concerns	None
Requests for more information	None

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or concerns	<p>The Select Committee received an Action Plan following Cabinet approval of the final report and recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Care Leavers EET.</p> <p>An initial progress update was also considered in respect of the Scrutiny Review of Careers Provision. Members commented on the positive progress made despite the impact of Covid restrictions and in particular the significant increases in schools meeting the Gatsby Benchmarks.</p>

Next Meeting
6 October 2021 - 5.00pm