

Children and Young People's Partnership

A meeting of Children and Young People's Partnership was held on Wednesday, 18th January, 2017.

Present: Martin Gray (Chairman), Sarah Bowman Abouna, Emma Champley, Cllr Ann McCoy, Liz Boynton, Christine Smith (sub for Catherine Joyce), Bev Bearne, Chris Davis, Priti Butler, Jane Barker, Helen Barker

Officers: Jenna McDonald

Also in attendance: Mick Shannon, Dave Willingham, Diane McConnell

Apologies: Maryssa O'Connor, Hazel Ducker, Catherine Joyce, Jo Heaney

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th November 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.

3 Minutes of the Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Commissioning Group

Members noted the minutes of the Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Commissioning Group held on 6 December 2016.

4 School Performance - Vulnerable Pupils

Members were provided with a report that detailed an analysis of school performance in the academic year 2015 - 2016 for vulnerable pupils.

Discussion could be summarised as follows :

- narrowing performance gaps were a priority for the Council.
- reference was made to the importance of reading to children everyday and partners were asked to consider how they were contributing to encouraging and supporting this. Further consideration of this would be undertaken.
- members raised an issue relating to comparatively high exclusion rates in a particular school. It was noted that this rate reflected the approach of the academy group, that was now responsible for the school, which had a strict disciplinary regime. It was anticipated that the current rate would reduce overtime. It was noted the academy group had a good performance track record.

RESOLVED that the report and discussion be noted.

5 NEET/EET and not known - Update

Members received a report that provided an update relating to Young People

(16-19) who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). The report also dealt with Young People whose status was not known.

Members noted the Council's statutory duties in this area.

Members were provided with details of some of the activity associated with preventing young people becoming NEET.

Members discussed the report and this could be summarised as follows:

- European Social Fund had delivered a programme that provided bespoke 1:1 provision to address individual needs and a range of issues.
- there was a discussion relating to the gap between the local labour market and the education system, work to reduce this gap and the Combined Authority's focus on employment and skills.
- it was accepted that engagement with employers needed to be improved, though there had been a considerable amount of work in this area.
- reference was made to pre apprenticeship programmes directly linked to employers and the skills they needed.
- issues for young people who did not get English and Maths whilst at school and the barriers this created in terms of finding employment/apprenticeships.
- consideration of how, post school, English and Maths could be delivered in a way more accessible and appealing to young people.
- reference was made to Traineeships and it was explained that funding allowed young people to do a bespoke programme that was based around work experience, English and Maths and other skills that would make them work/apprenticeship ready.

The Partnership agreed that there was good work going on in certain areas but there was wide range of factors that influenced NEET and not known and these needed to be considered further.

It was agreed that a further update on this matter come back to a future meeting.

RESOLVED that the report and discussion be noted and a progress report on work undertaken in this area be provided to a future meeting.

6 Ofsted Inspection - Improvement and Development Action Plan 2016

Members were provided with the Improvement and Development Action Plan that had been developed following the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers.

It was noted that there were 26 recommendations across 10 themes and the Action Plan detailed key tasks that would drive improvements.

The Partnership was provided with details of progress in relation to the actions.

RESOLVED that the progress against the plan be noted.

7 Work Programme

Members noted the Partnerships current Forward Plan.