

People Select Committee

A meeting of People Select Committee was held on Monday, 18th June, 2018.

Present: Cllr Jean O'Donnell (Chair); Cllr Louise Baldock (Vice Chair), Cllr Sonia Bailey, , Cllr Gillian Corr, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Eileen Johnson and Cllr Mick Moore.

Officers: Martin Gray (CHS), Ann Workman, Jane Smith (A&H), Liz Purdy (HR,L&C), Lorraine Dixon (C,L&E), Gary Woods, Peter Bell (DCE).

Also in attendance: Cllr Ann McCoy (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People), Cllr Jim Beall (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health).

Apologies: Cllr Elsi Hampton.

PEO 17/18 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Jim Beall declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 4 - Monitoring the impact of previously agreed recommendations as he was a member of Eastern Ravens Board.

PEO 18/18 **Scrutiny Review of Mental Health and Wellbeing including Suicide and Self-Harm**

Consideration was given to the draft final report and recommendations for the Scrutiny Review of Mental Health and Wellbeing including Suicide and Self-Harm. Members considered each recommendation individually and then agreed the final report.

AGREED that the final report of the Scrutiny Review of Mental Health and Wellbeing including Suicide and Self-Harm be accepted and forwarded to Cabinet for approval.

PEO 19/18 **Monitoring the impact of previously agreed recommendations**

Members were asked to consider the assessments of progress contained within Progress Updates on the implementation of previously agreed recommendations. There were outstanding recommendations from the reviews of Sickness Absence (Initial), Child Poverty, Wellbeing, FASD, and Disadvantage in Early Years.

For the Sickness Absence initial progress update, Members noted the extensive work undertaken since this review was completed in relation to the agreed recommendations, particularly around ensuring staff are aware of the support the Council makes available for them to access. It was confirmed that the sickness absence rate for 2017-2018 was 8.7 days lost per FTE (lower than the previous year), and that the Council had achieved the Better Health at Work Award Continuing Excellence accreditation (next assessment is late-2019).

With regard to the Child Poverty Progress Update it was noted that the new SEND Strategy would be presented to the next Health and Wellbeing Board. Members felt that recommendation 5 – Officers work with other partner agencies (e.g. the CCG as commissioner) to further explore the provision of speech and language therapy to children, particularly those most vulnerable, in

order to input to future discussions on commissioning and/or development of these services should be revisited in 6 months to check on progress.

In relation to the Wellbeing progress update, details of two completed community-based arts and cultural programmes focusing on reducing social isolation and improving mental health and wellbeing were provided. Members were also informed that recommendation 4 (Arts and cultural options to be routinely considered across partners when commissioning preventative and mental health service) would be worked into the strategic approach regarding mental health and wellbeing that has been agreed at the Health and Wellbeing Board, and would be included in the strategic Action Plan that sits alongside the strategy.

With regard to the FASD Progress Update Members noted that re-energised actions in relation to alcohol would be presented to the next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board. An officer was now in place to take on many the new actions that had been difficult to resource.

With regard to Disadvantage in Early Years Progress Update Members noted that Public Health had led the re-commissioning of 0 – 19 Service and the positive update was another indication that the activity in that area combined with the re-organisation of Children’s Centres was having a positive impact. It was good news that the most disadvantaged children’s issues were being addressed and there was a targeted and focussed approach for the children to be given the additional assistance for a range of issues to get them school ready. Members suggested that it would be useful to see how Stockton-on-Tees matches up with other local Council’s in relation to the uptake of funded Early Years education places.

Members reviewed the updates and agreed with the assessments of progress.

AGREED that:-

1. The Progress Updates be noted and the assessments for progress be confirmed.
2. Further information regarding the uptake of funded Early Years education places in Stockton-on-Tees (as well as comparisons with other Local Authority areas) be provided.

**PEO
20/18** **Scrutiny Review of Digital Optimisation**

Consideration was given to the draft scope and project plan of the Scrutiny Review of Digital Optimisation.

It was proposed that the aim of this review would be to:

- assess how well Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council is progressing in its provision of digital services;
- understand how digital services are being tailored to meet the needs of the Borough’s residents (personalisation of service);

- consider to what extent the Council facilitates those who need access to digital services, mitigating for digital exclusion through the provision of technology in libraries and assisted customer self-serve;
 - ascertain how the Council's digital services are being communicated, and how residents are being engaged;
- explore what can be developed in the future to further encourage the channel shift towards digital services.

The Committee requested the further information as follows:

- A breakdown of figures for the various transactions that the Council performed either face to face, email, on-line or telephone.

AGREED that:

1. The draft scope and project plan of the Scrutiny Review of Digital Optimisation be approved.
2. Further information be provided as requested.

**PEO
21/18** **Work Programme 2018-2019**

Consideration was given to the Work Programme 2018-2019. The next meeting was scheduled for the 16th July 2018.

AGREED that the Work Programme 2018-2019 be noted.

**PEO
22/18** **Chair's Update**

The Chair had nothing further to update.