

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

A meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday 13 December 2023.

Present: Cllr Carol Clark (Chair), Cllr Barbara Inman (Vice-Chair), Cllr David Reynard, Cllr Stephen Richardson, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Sally Ann Watson and Cllr Katie Weston.

Officers: Eddie Huntington, Vanessa Housley (Ch'S) and Judy Trainer (CS).

Also in attendance: Janet Bradley (Healthwatch Stockton-on-Tees)

Apologies: Cllr Ray Godwin and Cllr Emily Tate.

CYP/13/23 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

CYP/14/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

CYP/15/23 Minutes

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CYP/16/23 Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment

The Select Committee received a presentation on the Appreciative Inquiry work relating to the new team around the school partnership offer. The work, which focused on early help, linked in with the Select Committee's review.

The presentation covered:

- The vision for 2030
- What was already going well in Stockton-on-Tees
- What would be different for families?
- Vision for the team around the school and desired impact
- Model options
 - Targeted Support
 - Graduated Response Model
- School Navigator role and function

Key issues highlighted and discussed:

- The vision was “To transform the Team around the school offer and design services that schools, and young people say they want and are important to them.”
- The support would be accessible, empathetic and welcoming front-line teams with rapid response to need and personalised, individualised support
- The targeted support option would provide a multifaceted, enhanced and co-ordinated early help offer across all schools, that deployed resources based upon evidence-based need and ensured pupils were getting the right support at the right time
- The Early Help School Navigator role and function included:
 - Brokerage and co-ordination of support
 - Thresholds guidance and consultancy
 - Direct work and intervention
 - Partnership working
 - System change and thinking
- The proposed graduated response looked at four potential offers:
 - Platinum – Navigators based in schools 2.5 days per week
 - Gold – Navigators based in schools 2 days per week
 - Silver – Navigators based in schools 1 day per week
 - Bronze – Navigators based in school 0.5 days per week
- The navigator role was a specialist role but was aimed at growing capacity within school settings. The navigators would not be new posts, instead existing resource would be used in a difference way to support the work
- Next steps would involve a series of co-production sessions with clusters of schools to engage them in collaborative design of the team around the school offer, which would potentially change some of the offer as it currently stood
- Whilst it was recognised that some children needed specialist provision, the Government was encouraging schools to educate SEND pupils within mainstream schools
- Funding pressures on schools were acknowledged and the navigator role would help schools to take full advantage of support already available

In the spirit of collaborative working, officers were finalising engagement activity with stakeholders and further information would be brought to the January meeting.

AGREED that the information be noted.

CYP/17/23 Select Committee Work Programme

A series of presentations were being arranged utilising scheduled Committee meetings. The presentations would provide background and context for the Select Committee's work and would include:

- New Attendance Strategy
- Early Help Appreciative Inquiry
- Vulnerable Groups - Outcomes and Activities
- Case Studies and Best Practice

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.