

Date: Wednesday 14 February 2024 at 5.00 pm

Venue: Jim Cooke Conference Suite, Stockton Central Library, Church Road,
Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1TU

Cllr Carol Clark (Chair)
Cllr Barbara Inman (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Ray Godwin
Cllr Stephen Richardson
Cllr Emily Tate
Cllr Katie Weston

Cllr David Reynard
Cllr Paul Rowling
Cllr Sally Ann Watson

AGENDA

- 1 Evacuation Procedure** (Pages 7 - 8)
- 2 Apologies for Absence**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Minutes**
To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 17 January 2024. (Pages 9 - 12)
- 5 Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment**
 - To receive a presentation on the Early Help Appreciative Inquiry as context for the Select Committee's review work
 - To receive an update on stakeholder engagement
- 6 Select Committee Work Programme** (Pages 13 - 14)

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A(4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda papers.

Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please

Contact: Scrutiny Support Officer Rachel Harrison on email rachel.harrison@stockton.gov.uk

KEY - Declarable interests are:-

- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's)
- Other Registerable Interests (ORI's)
- Non Registerable Interests (NRI's)

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance



Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

| Subject | Description |
|--|--|
| Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation | Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain |
| Sponsorship | Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. |
| Contracts | Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged. |
| Land and property | Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income. |
| Licences | Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer. |
| Corporate tenancies | Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of. |
| Securities | Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class. |

* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

- a) any unpaid directorships
- b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
- c) any body
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or
 - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

This page is intentionally left blank

Jim Cooke Conference Suite, Stockton Central Library **Evacuation Procedure & Housekeeping**

If the fire or bomb alarm should sound please exit by the nearest emergency exit. The Fire alarm is a continuous ring and the Bomb alarm is the same as the fire alarm however it is an intermittent ring.

If the Fire Alarm rings exit through the nearest available emergency exit and form up in Municipal Buildings Car Park.

The assembly point for everyone if the Bomb alarm is sounded is the car park at the rear of Splash on Church Road.

The emergency exits are located via the doors between the 2 projector screens. The key coded emergency exit door will automatically disengage when the alarm sounds.

The Toilets are located on the Ground floor corridor of Municipal Buildings next to the emergency exit. Both the ladies and gents toilets are located on the right hand side.

Microphones

During the meeting, members of the Committee, and officers in attendance, will have access to a microphone. Please use the microphones, when directed to speak by the Chair, to ensure you are heard by the Committee.

This page is intentionally left blank

Children and Young People Select Committee

A meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 17 January 2024.

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

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

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

Apologies: None

| | |
|----------|---|
| 1 | <p>Evacuation Procedure</p> <p>The evacuation procedure was noted.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no interests declared.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Minutes</p> <p>AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment</p> <p>The Select Committee received a copy of the draft Attendance Strategy 2023 – 2026 which provided context for the Select Committee’s review work.</p> <p>Key issues highlighted and discussed were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance levels were broadly in line with the national picture with primary slightly above • Attendance seemed to become more of an issue following transition from secondary to college • Colleges were bound by the same legislation as schools but were perhaps less well equipped to deal with complex cases and engage with vulnerable young people • All schools had been invited to contribute to the draft strategy • The strategy reflected the need for a strong partnership approach to tackle the issue • With regard to the rise in absence levels for girls, discussion at Closing the Gap cluster meetings suggested that this might be attributed to period poverty or girls having caring responsibilities in the home • Members questioned whether strict toilet policies in schools also had an impact on attendance levels for girls. This reiterated the need for a strong pupil voice to understand the reasons for absence |

- Schools were able to submit data around school attendance through the DfE portal. The large majority of schools submitted data in this way
- Many schools demonstrated an inclusive culture. However, others adopted an approach of educating pupils only if they were ready to be educated. The reasons behind this difference were recognised by the Select Committee and the challenges for larger secondaries were noted, where staff/ pupil ratios were larger. Although attendance was still a line of enquiry in the new Ofsted framework, it was no longer a limiting factor
- Covid had impacted on attendance levels, especially in deprived areas
- Poor attendance directly often raised safeguarding concerns
- Absence due to family holidays remained an issue as the price differentials during term time and school holidays had never been addressed with holiday companies. It was acknowledged that a national agreement was needed
- Changing attitudes to technology also led to a belief among some parents that online learning was acceptable as an alternative to attending school
- If a child was being educated under special arrangements, on a reduced timetable, this would not be recorded as absence because this had been agreed with the school in advance. However, it was stressed a reduced timetable would only ever be for a short-term period and for a maximum of six months
- If a child was excluded from school, there would be no absence marked against them

The Select Committee also received a presentation setting out feedback from schools from pupil premium strategy statements on school websites. The feedback revealed increases in concerns in the following areas:

- Attendance
- Communication – oracy
- Cultural Capital
- Impacts of the costs of living crisis

Based on the feedback, the Select Committee agreed to amend the second strand of their review. The review would therefore focus on attendance and communication.

The Committee were advised that two workshop sessions had now been arranged with schools and other stakeholders on 8 and 22 March 2024. Ahead of the workshops, pupil and parent/carer interviews would be conducted in a range of Stockton primary and secondary schools and the feedback from these interviews would be available for the workshops. Discussions were also taking place regarding other engagement work that could be carried out to provide additional insight.

The Select Committee supported the change in focus of the scope and agreed that a further key question be added to the lines of enquiry for the communication strand:

| | |
|----------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the impacts of low levels of communication/ language development for our students? <p>AGREED that the information be noted and a breakdown of school attendance be presented to the next meeting.</p> |
| 5 | Select Committee Work Programme AGREED that the Work Programme be noted. |

This page is intentionally left blank

**Children and Young People Select Committee
Work Programme – 2023-2024**

| Date | Item | Attending |
|------------------|--|---|
| 19 July 2023 | Children's Services Overview Action Plan – Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships | Martin Gray Cllr Lisa Evans Adele Moore |
| 15 November 2023 | Review of Educational Attainment Progress Update – Care Leavers EET Progress Update - Scrutiny Review of Child Poverty | Vanessa Housley Eddie Huntington David Willingham Haleem Ghafoor |
| 13 December 2023 | Review of Educational Attainment Presentation – New Team around the School Partnership Offer | Vanessa Housley Eddie Huntington |
| 17 January 2024 | Review of Educational Attainment: Presentation – New Attendance Strategy | Vanessa Housley Eddie Huntington |
| 14 February 2024 | Review of Educational Attainment: Presentation – Early Help Appreciative Inquiry | Anthony Douglas Charisse Monaro |
| 13 March 2024 | Review of Educational Attainment: Vulnerable Groups – Outcomes and Activities | Vanessa Housley Eddie Huntington |
| 17 April 2024 | Review of Educational Attainment: SBC Case Studies St John the Baptist, Northfield | Vanessa Housley Eddie Huntington Head Teachers |
| 15 May 2024 | Review of Educational Attainment: Workshop and Engagement Feedback Summary of Evidence | Vanessa Housley Eddie Huntington |
| 12 June 2024 | Review of Educational Attainment: Final Report | Vanessa Housley Eddie Huntington |

Items to be scheduled each year

Annual

Overview of Children and Young People's Services and Annual Safeguarding Report

Six Monthly

Children and Young People Performance Reports

Progress Updates

Progress Update - Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships - July 2024

Progress Update Care Leaver EET – July 2024

This page is intentionally left blank