

Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update March 2023

Scrutiny Review – Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships	
Achieved since last meeting	The Select Committee's final report was considered by Cabinet in February and all recommendations were approved.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	The Action Plan will be presented to the Select Committee following the local elections.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or concerns	<p>The final performance report was considered by the Select Committee in March.</p> <p>Key issues highlighted included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demands on children's services were complex and increasing and there were well recognised national challenges around capacity and funding • Having received a positive focused visit in December 2021, the September 2022 focused on the "front door" was less positive and pointed to a number of areas for improvement. Building blocks for an effective response and key actions already implemented were outlined • Work was underway for the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Inclusion (SENDI) Inspection which would take place in the next three years • The Help and Support offer continued to evolve in line with relationship-based practice model • There continued to be a significant demand pressure across children's social care services. Priorities for the year ahead included implementing the actions from the Focused Visit and the current visit and implementing the recruitment and retention plan • There were extremely good relationships with schools and Stockton schools performed well overall. Priorities would include narrowing the gap for children from disadvantaged backgrounds • A lot of work had been carried out to ensure sufficiency of school places and there were high rates of children being allocated their first choice of school • The Schools Capital Programme had implemented significant investment at Stockton schools • Progress against the SEND strategy was being monitored through the multi-agency SEND Strategic Group which would evolve into the Local Inclusion Partnership

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Problems or concerns	None
Requests for more information	None

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or concerns	<p>The March meeting received a presentation from the Economic Development Team on work around employment, education and skills with schools, colleges and universities. The update has been requested as a recommendation of the Place Select Committee review of Business Support and Engagement.</p> <p>Future monitoring items to be scheduled after the local Elections are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Plan – Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships • Further Progress Update – Care Leavers EET • Further Progress Update - Initial Progress Update – Child Poverty

Remaining 2022-2023 Scrutiny Reviews
None

Remaining 2022-2023 Meetings (all 5.00pm unless stated)
None