Children and Young People Select Committee

A meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday 14th October 2026.

Present: Cllr Carol Clark (Chair), Cllr Barbara Inman (Vice-Chair), Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Shakeel Hussain (sub for Cllr Sufi Mubeen), Cllr Jack Miller, Cllr Emily Tate and Cllr Katie Zagoria

Officers: Darran Hope, Mandie Rowlands, Vanessa Housley, Claire Tiffany, Judy Trainer and John Devine

Also in attendance: None

Apologies: Cllr Ray Godwin, Cllr Sufi Mubeen and Cllr Sally Ann Watson

CYP/31/26 Livestreaming

The Chair announced to those present that the meeting would be live streamed.

CYP/32/26 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

CYP/33/26 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

CYP/34/26 Minutes

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CYP/35/26 Monitoring - Scrutiny Review of Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships

The Select Committee received a progress update in relation to the Select Committee's previous review of Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships. All recommendations from the review had now been assessed as Fully Achieved.

Overall, the review found a stronger, more coordinated partnership approach leading to improved safeguarding responses for children and young people at risk of harm outside the home. Key achievements included:

- A Tees-wide Harm Outside the Home (HOTH) Strategy 2024-2027 was now embedded across safeguarding and community safety partnerships
- Shared definitions, procedures, screening tools and referral pathways were in place, creating a more consistent multi-agency response to exploitation and youth violence
- Improved systems and performance monitoring had strengthened the identification and tracking of children at risk

- Training and awareness for professionals, schools, partners and communities had increased understanding of exploitation and contextual safeguarding
- Dedicated services, strengthened MACE arrangements and the development of a Community Guardians model had enhanced prevention, disruption and safeguarding activity

AGREED that the progress update be noted and the assessments of progress be confirmed with all progress updates signed off as fully achieved.

CYP/36/26 Monitoring - Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment

The Select Committee received progress updates in relation to recommendations 11 and 15 of the Select Committee's appreciative inquiry into Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment:

11 Strengthen understanding of career pathways
Clarify pathways to careers early in school life:

- Design and delivery of courses to clarify current career pathways for pupils and parents, including vocational careers and options other than traditional routes
- Employment & Training Hub to link with schools to notify parents of apprenticeships events
- Promote aspirational/motivational approaches
- Strengthen links between schools/parents/careers advisor
- Share best practice regarding "careers" evenings/ events in primary and secondary schools
- Invite parents into school who have unusual careers
- Educate parents on opportunities post 16

Progress outlined included:

- Strengthened relationship across all post 16 providers. A Post-16 Partnership had been established, a new work experience network was being developed, and multi-agency initiatives had been introduced to improve careers education and progression opportunities for young people
- Across post-16 providers, enrolment and conversion rates had improved. A-level performance had exceeded the national average, and the proportion of young people who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) had reduced from 7.1% to 5%

15 Embed and extend pastoral support
Embed and extend pastoral support in schools targeted to need.

- Engage with the Healthy Schools Programme and Healthy Settings Programme

Progress outlined included:

- An ABC Framework, risk indicator matrix and school support arrangements had been developed and implemented to better identify and support pupils at risk of disengagement
- Targeted support had contributed to improvements in school ratings, increased uptake of interventions. There had also been positive feedback from schools and earlier identification of pupils requiring support

The Select Committee noted that attainment data would be consider by Cabinet in March after release and requested that details should also be submitted to the Select Committee.

AGREED that the progress update be noted and the assessments of progress be confirmed.

CYP/37/26 Monitoring - Scrutiny Review of Holidays are Fun

The Select Committee received a progress update in respect of their earlier in-depth review of the Holidays are Fun programme. All recommendations had now been fully implemented and achieved.

The Select Committee commended officers on the work that had been carried out to implement the recommendations from the review and noted that there had been increased participation, particularly among secondary-age children and those with SEND. The range and accessibility of provision had been expanded along with improved communication and engagement. Improvements included a more efficient booking system, strengthened support for families, and opportunities for leadership and employment. The programme also demonstrated greater sustainability through expanded provider capacity, paid places and stronger partnerships working.

AGREED that the progress update be noted and the assessments of progress be confirmed with all progress updates signed off as fully achieved.

CYP/38/26 Scrutiny Review of Alternative Provision

The Select Committee received a presentation covering key contextual data, including:

- What are the reasons why children and young people attend Alternative Provision (AP) in Stockton and who is more likely to access AP?
    - Suspension and permanent exclusion
    - Challenging behaviour
    - No school roll
    - Increased anxiety and emotional barriers to education
    - Section 19 education
    - Home and Hospital educated
- Trends Over Time - Analysis of recent trends and increasing demand for Alternative Provision
- Safeguarding in AP - Safeguarding expectations and arrangements across different types of providers
- Outcomes for Pupils Accessing AP - Expected improvements in attendance, engagement, behaviour and attainment
- Returning to School - Processes and support available to help pupils reintegrate into mainstream education
- Registration of AP - Registration requirements and legal responsibilities for providers
- Stockton-on-Tees AP Framework - Overview of the borough's quality-assured commissioning framework and approved providers
- Providers on our Framework 26-27 - Summary of the range of education, tuition and specialist support providers available

- Quality Assurance of AP including Non-School AP - Monitoring, review and quality assurance arrangements to ensure provider standards are maintained.

Key issues highlighted and discussed were as follows:

- Members asked how safeguarding concerns arising within Alternative Provision would be reported and whether issues would be raised directly with the local authority or managed solely by the provider. Officers explained that providers were required to have up-to-date safeguarding referral processes and were expected to make referrals in the same way as schools. Where the local authority commissioned the placement, providers were also expected to notify the Council of any safeguarding disclosures or concerns at the same time as making a referral.

  Quality assurance reviews covered safeguarding arrangements in detail, including referral pathways, awareness of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), arrangements for transporting pupils, procedures when pupils fail to attend, staff safeguarding responsibilities and safeguarding training. Training expectations included contextual safeguarding, Prevent and FGM awareness.

- The AP network had been operating since February 2025, with participation from between 10 and 40 schools. The network had enabled schools to share experiences, engage with professionals and contribute to the development of a local good practice guide for Alternative Provision. Going forward, the AP network provided the opportunity to bring all AP providers together to share best practice, particularly around safeguarding, and to encourage learning between providers to improve the quality and consistency of provision.

More information would be presented to the next Select Committee meeting on the key lines of enquiry focusing on parent and pupil voice. Visits to a range of provision would also be arranged for Committee Member ahead of the next meeting.

AGREED that the information be noted.

CYP/39/26 Select Committee Work Programme

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.

Chair: .....