

## Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update September 2023

<b>Scrutiny Review – Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment</b>	
<b>Achieved since last meeting</b>	The Select Committee's next review will allow the Committee to explore the impact of what the Council's already does, what new initiatives exist and what could still be done to maximise impact.
<b>Problems or concerns</b>	None
<b>Planned next month</b>	<p>The initial tri-partite meeting will be held on 4 September 2023 and a draft scope and project plan will be considered at the September Meeting.</p> <p>Provisional timescales and dates have been agreed and put in diaries. The review is scheduled to report to Cabinet in March 2024.</p>
<b>On track – yes / no</b>	Yes

<b>Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance</b>	
<b>Key Issues / Problems or concerns</b>	<p>At their July meeting, the Select Committee received the overview report for Children's Services. The report also included a summary of current performance data and a link to performance across the Council Plan reported on a six-monthly basis to Executive Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Key issues highlighted and discussed were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The most recent Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services had resulted in an overall judgement of "Required Improvement". The key areas for improvement identified by Ofsted were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The quality and effectiveness of plans for children and care leavers, including safety plans agreed with parents</li> <li>○ Sufficiency of suitable foster homes for children</li> <li>○ Frontline management oversight across the service, in relation to the quality of assessment and plans and the impact of interventions</li> <li>○ Opportunities for more children and care leavers to have a voice and to influence the development of services</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Good and Beyond Board provided oversight and drive for continuous improvement planning and the Inspection recognised the considerable amount of progress since the 2019 inspection and the September 2022 focused visit</li> </ul>

## Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update September 2023

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work was underway for the forthcoming SEND and AP Inspection which would take place in the next three years. In 2023 a Local Inclusion Partnership would be established in line with the SEND Green Paper and a strategic action plan would be agreed in advance of a new Local Inclusion Strategy to be developed in 2024. The vast majority of SEND children were educated in mainstream schools and funding was available to support this</li><li>• There continued to be significant demand across children's social care. The number of children in care had stabilised since April 2020. A more recent development had been the significant increase in the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children</li><li>• The number of children placed out of Borough was broadly the same as four years ago and the Council was the highest performing Authority in the country around keeping children and young people as close to home as possible</li><li>• Stockton schools performed well overall, being the best performing in the region although there was an attainment gap between those children from poorer backgrounds, SEND and children in care</li><li>• A new Attendance Strategy for the Borough was to be presented to Cabinet in October</li><li>• A performance and improvement framework had been launched across the Directorate which increased the breadth and range of quality assurance activity taking place and supported service improvement</li><li>• The alternative provision free school would provide places for children at risk of exclusion whilst retaining them on the school roll as well as "turnaround" type of provision for children excluded based on an effective model operating in Doncaster</li><li>• The Doncaster based provision by Delta Academy was highly regarded by DfE and Ofsted. It positively impacted on children who attend and also promoted inclusive mainstream education</li><li>• The recruitment and retention of skilled, experienced staff was highlighted as a key factor in driving improvement</li><li>• New children's homes were being developed, supported by DfE capital funding. Members highlighted the importance of early consultation with Members regarding the location of children's homes</li></ul>
--	--

## Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update September 2023

<b>Problems or concerns</b>	None
<b>Requests for more information</b>	None

### Monitoring

<b>Key Issues / Problems or concerns</b>	<p>An action plan in respect of the Review of Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships was presented to the Select Committee for approval in July 2023.</p> <p>Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care Leavers EET – September 2023</li> <li>• Child Poverty – October 2023</li> <li>• Contextual Safeguarding – July 2024</li> </ul>
--	---

### Remaining 2023-2024 Scrutiny Reviews

Holidays are Fun (HAF) Programme

### Remaining 2023-2024 Meetings (all 5.00pm unless stated)

13 September 2023  
 11 October 2023  
 15 November 2023  
 13 December 2023  
 17 January 2024  
 14 February 2024  
 13 March 2024