

Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update September 2024

Scrutiny Review – Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>The Select Committee's current review is being carried out utilising an Appreciative Inquiry (AI) model.</p> <p>An AI model is a collaborative process that involves all stakeholders, from top management to frontline employees and, in the case of this review, much stronger involvement with the education sector to create a shared vision and find solutions in a creative and innovative way.</p> <p>As part of the review, two all day stakeholder workshops were held in March around the two areas agreed by the Committee as the focus of its work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 March 2024 – Attendance • 22 March 2024 - Communication (vocabulary, oracy and literacy) <p>Key stakeholders were invited to attend each workshop, with 50 attending the first session and 47 attending the second session.</p> <p>Pupil and parent/carer voice interviews have also taken place in four primary and four secondary schools.</p> <p>In addition, an online survey was rolled out across children's services to reach a range of stakeholders based on the same key questions for the pupil voice interviews. This closed on 19 April.</p> <p>An informal session was held on 15 May to facilitate discussion with health colleagues around the key lines of enquiry.</p> <p>The Parent/ Carer Forum conducted a further consultation with their 1800 members around the key engagement questions and attended the Committee's meeting on 12 June to present their feedback. This meeting also reviewed the summary of evidence and identified high level findings and emerging areas for recommendations.</p> <p>This will be followed by a further stakeholder session with one key representative from each sector/ group to refine draft recommendations / actions from the review.</p> <p>We have used scheduled committee meetings to provide presentations to support Members' understanding of this area of work.</p> <p>Work will conclude by September 2024.</p> <p>Alongside engagement, the Committee have been receiving presentations and updates to provide background to their review. These have included:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December – New Team around the School Partnership Offer January – Draft Attendance Strategy February – Early Help Appreciative Inquiry March – Feedback from Pupil and Parent Carer Voice Interviews; Outcomes for Vulnerable Groups report April – Attendance by the newly appointed regional DfE Advisor on attendance
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	<p>Follow up stakeholder workshop on Friday 6 September with one key representative from each sector/ group to refine draft recommendations / actions from the review.</p> <p>Select Committee approval of the final report.</p>
On track – yes / no	Yes

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance

Key Issues / Problems or concerns	No reports since last update.
Problems or concerns	None
Requests for more information	None

Monitoring

Key Issues / Problems or concerns	<p>At their July meeting, the Select Committee received progress updates in relation to agreed actions from previously completed reviews of Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships and Care Leavers EET.</p> <p>With regard to Contextual Safeguarding, work was progressing in respect of the actions, most of which were on track. Key issues highlighted were as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work had been undertaken with Cleveland Police and other partners through the YOT board and the SSP to develop a strategic partnership approach to Risk Outside the Home and particularly youth violence The Risk Outside the Home Policy and Guidance was currently under review. Since the scrutiny
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	<p>review the terminology had reverted back to “exploitation” as this was more consistently used amongst partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improvements in case management and planning and support packages had improved significantly since the implementation of this scrutiny action plan• More work was still needed to develop an understanding of contextual safeguarding and signs and indicators of CE/CSE across the workforce and with elected Members• Visits were to be arranged to other local authorities where they had Guardians in place to see if this could be replicated or developed in Stockton• A dedicated team and a Head of Service had been established through the recent review within Children's Services. This area included, YOT, MACE, a dedicated social work team and adolescence team <p>A further progress update would be submitted to the Committee in due course.</p> <p>The Select Committee signed off all actions in relation to the review of Care Leavers EET.</p> <p>A corporate group had been established at senior level and with local businesses focussing on EET and a report was to be presented to Cabinet in July with a recommendation to endorse additional employability support for care experienced young people aged 16 – 25 including prioritising access to apprenticeships and job vacancies and guaranteed interviews for those meeting essential criteria. The success of this would form the basis for how the Council approached external partners and local employers to progress beyond the Council.</p> <p>A care experienced young person also attended the meeting to share his experiences of being part of the No Limits programme and progressing through to a successful apprenticeship. His experience demonstrated the importance of receiving support from the Council as a corporate parent.</p>
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Next Scrutiny Review
HAF Programme

Remaining 2023-2024 Meetings (all 5.00pm unless stated)
25 September 2024 16 October 2024 13 November 2024 11 December 2024 15 January 2025 12 February 2025 12 March 2025