

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 April 2015

PRESENT – Councillor C. Taylor (in the Chair); Councillors Crudass, L. Hughes and E.A. Richmond. (4)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Crumbie, Hutchinson, Kelley, Lister, L. Vasey and Wright; and Mr. Fitt and Ms. Regan. (5)

ABSENT – Councillor Galletley. (1)

STATUTORY CO-OPTees – Mr. M. Frank. (1)

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees – None (0)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor C. Hughes and Mr. Sinski (Member of the Public).

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jenni Cooke, Assistant Director – Children, Families and Learning; Paul Richardson, Head of 16-19 Learning and Skills; Debbie Spence, Business Manager; Calvin Kipling, Head of DSMS and Virtual School Head; Head of St. Teresa’s RC Primary School; and Allison Hill, Democratic Officer.

CYP37. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interested reported at the meeting.

CYP38. MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 23 February 2015.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

CYP39. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK – QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE – Pursuant to CYP30/Jan/15, the Head of Organisational Planning gave a presentation to give Members graphical information on Quarter 3 performance relating to those strategic indicators for areas under the remit of this Scrutiny Committee ‘giving children and young people the best start in life’ and ‘enough support for people when needed’

Members were advised that they will continue to receive quarterly overviews of the strategic indicators and shorter term indicators including costs of service to enable them to monitor and understand more clearly the services being delivered and outlining the desired outcomes.

Members considered various graphical data for Early Years Foundation Stage Profile percentage achieving at least expected level of development; children living in low income households (previously the percentage of children living in poverty);

percentage achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE (including Maths and English); the rate of first time entrants to the youth justice system; children in need per 10,000 population under 18; percentage of young people leaving care aged 16 or over with one or more GCSE at grade A*-G or a GNVQ; number of children who ceased to be subject to Child Protection Plans; a number of graphs relating to Looked After Children placements, adoptions, referrals and initial assessments, care plans, residential accommodation; and statistical information relating to care leavers.

RESOLVED – That the performance management date be noted.

CYP40. PUPIL PREMIUM – (a) Presentation - Christine Boyce, Head Teacher of St. Teresa's RC Primary School and Calvin Kipling, Head Teacher of the Darlington School of Mathematics and Science (DSMS) both attended the meeting to advise Members on how they use the Pupil Premium (PP) funding allocated to schools to improve the outcomes of their pupils on Free Schools Meals (FSM).

Christine Boyce advised the Members that it was her view that it was not only the pupils on Free School Meals who were vulnerable and therefore her aim was to include as many disadvantaged children as possible. She advised that St. Teresa's School had a fairly stable budget which gave her the opportunity to extend the PP funding and as a result the school had reduced the attainment gap of all PP children in her School and were now exceeding the national average.

The Head highlighted the key areas were the school had focused on which were support for learning; support for social development; support for family; and support for curriculum. She also advised that the School had offered intensive support 'after school' which had been closely targeted and monitored; concentrated on literacy; employed an additional teacher for one and half days a week; offered support to Year 2 pupils also; family learning within the school had been offered to the high percentage of pupils within the school who were EAL (English as an additional language); and offered speech and language development.

St. Teresa's RC Primary School receives £75,000 PP funding for a school in a Ward with high levels of deprivation and also includes a large number of travelling families and EAL. Some discussion ensued on travelling families and the fact that they do not qualify for PP funding.

Calvin Kipling, the Head of DSMS and the Virtual Head for Looked After Children (LAC) also advised the Members of this Scrutiny on how his school utilises the PP funding it receives.

The Head outlined that the main issues at DSMS are that the pupils were generally from poor socio economic areas and the school had previously been in special measures, also the school had a significant proportion of pupils with reading levels below the expected levels for their age. To address these problems the Head explained how the school had put in place an accelerated reading programme which had proved to be very successful and invested in age appropriate reading material to engage the older children. He also advised Members that the school had re-introduced reading to pupils; introduced mixed-age tutor groups; encouraging older

children to hear the younger children read which had resulted in presently 90 per cent of his Year 7 pupils having an increased reading level.

The Head also explained that he felt raising aspirations of young people was very important and had engaged the assistance of Future First Charity to bring inspirational speakers into the school; along with Martyn Grey, Manager of Darlington Football Club had devised a programme to encourage pupils to attend classes and thereby entitle them to attend the Football Academy; and work on going with the Army to run a Cadet Unit which will ultimately lead to a qualification.

With regard to Looked After Children (LAC), in his role of Virtual Head to LAC, Calvin advised Members that he had responsibility for PP funding and received regular reports on the LAC and how he monitors their progress. He also advised that it was his intention to link the PP plus funding via the 'Education Plan' to ensure it provides individualised support. There is also additional PP funding for LAC.

RESOLVED – That the thanks of the Committee be extended to Christine Boyce and Calvin Kipling for their presentation and that they be congratulated on the success that has been achieved at their school.

(b) Funding - The Service Director, Children, Families and Learning submitted a report (previously circulated) to advise Members on pupil premium funding and the amendments and refinements since it was introduced.

The Pupil Premium (PP) was introduced in April 2011 as additional targeted funding for schools to work with pupils who have registered for Free School Meals (FSM) at any point in the previous six years and to children 'looked after' continuously for six months.

The funding has increased since its introduction and in 2014/15 the total fund will be £100m, which equates to £935 for pupils in Year 7 to Year 11 and £1,300 for pupils in Reception to Year 6.

The submitted report outlined the amendments and extensions since 2001 which include a Service Pupil Premium (SPP) which covers Reception to Year 11 and amounts to £300 per eligible pupil; Pupil Premium Plus for eligible children which amounts to £1,900 and the Virtual School Head is responsible for managing the PP funding for looked after children; and Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) which was implemented in April 2015 via the Dedicated Schools Grant.

The submitted report also highlighted how Pupil Premium was working and best practice since its introduction in 2011; accountability and Ofsted inspections on attainment and progress of disadvantaged pupils who 'attract' PP; support and encouragement of effective use of PP; the Department for Education award scheme for schools where PP use has significantly improved the outcomes of their disadvantaged pupils; and examples of how PP is being used effectively within Darlington schools, which includes homework clubs, breakfast clubs, additional small group work and alternative education options.

RESOLVED – (a) That the additional funding to schools be noted.

(b) That the impact on the Council's Corporate Parenting role be noted and the Scrutiny Committee supports the work with schools and the Virtual Head Teacher to maximise the use of the funding.

CYP41. RAISING THE PARTICIPATION AGE (RPA) UPDATE – Pursuant to Minute CYP33/Feb/14 the Service Director, Children, Families and Learning submitted a report (previously circulated) to update Members on the implementation of the requirements of the Raising of the Participation Age (RPA), look at the impact locally and to give details of work being undertaken to meet the local authority's responsibilities.

The Education and Skills Act (2008) places a duty on local authorities to promote the effective participation in education or training of all 16 and 17 year olds resident in their area and to make arrangements to identify young people who are not participating.

The Department for Education (DfE) publishes details of local authority participation levels for March, June and December each year and the latest data from June 2014 showed that 93.6 per cent of 16 year olds participated in education or training which was above the North East average of 92.7 per cent and the national average of 93.1 per cent.

Data for Not in Employment, Education or Training data for January 2015 showed that 96.37 per cent of the Year 12 cohort and 88.56 per cent of the Year 13 cohort were participating. This is higher than June 2014 published figures.

The submitted report also detailed the issues that impact on the implementation of RPA; annual destination data from the DfE for all school leavers; and the actions taken by this authority to promote RPA along with schools, post 16 providers and other partners.

It was also reported that at 89.1 per cent participation, Darlington is in the top 32 per cent of the 151 local authorities where figures range from 73.3 per to 97.7 per cent. Following the release of the December 2014 data participation has now risen to 92.7%, putting Darlington in the top 19% of local authorities.

RESOLVED – That the report and actions being taken be noted.

CYP42. EXTENSION OF FUNDING TO 21 FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE – Pursuant to Minute CYP26/Dec/13, the Service Director, Children, Families and Learning submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members with further information on the requirements to enable Looked After Children to remain with their foster carers up until the age of 21 in 'Staying Put'.

Section 98 of the Children and Families Act 2014 addresses the arrangements for care leavers living with former foster parents after reaching adulthood and places a duty on the local authority to provide 'Staying Put' arrangements.

The submitted report gave details on how the local authority plan for and implement the 'Staying Put' arrangements in Darlington; the monitoring of 'Staying Put' arrangements; advice, assistance and support provided to the young person and the former foster carer; the key aims of the 'Staying Put' arrangements; future 'Staying Put' arrangements in Foster Placements and Children's Homes; and costs to the local authority for 2014/15 based on the current numbers.

RESOLVED (a) That the report be noted.

(b) That the statutory requirements to expand the funding are noted as a budgetary pressure.

CYP43. CHILD POVERTY REVIEW GROUP – Submitted – The Note of the meeting held on 24th February, 2015 (previously circulated).

The Chair advised the Members that a further meeting had been held on 13th April, 2015 to discuss the findings and recommendations of the Review Group and that a final report will be presented to Scrutiny at its next ordinary meeting scheduled for 22nd June, 2015.

RESOLVED - That the note of meeting be noted.

CYP44. WORK PROGRAMME – The Director of Neighbourhood Services Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee and to consider any additional areas which Members suggest should be added to the previously approved work programme.

It was reported that the Cabinet meeting at its meeting held on 3rd March, 2015 had noted the findings and recommendations contained in the final report of Young Carers Review Group.

RESOLVED – That the current status of the work programme be noted.