

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16 April 2018

PRESENT - Councillor C Taylor (in the Chair); Councillors Crudass, Crumbie, Curry, L. Hughes, Mills and Storr. (7)

NON STATUTORY CO-OPTEES – Mrs G Harrison. (1)

APOLOGIES – Councillor Mrs Culley, KE Kelly, Lister and Wright; Jane Kochanowski, Assistant Director of Children’s Services and Tim Fisher. (4)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor C Hughes, Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio. (1)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Sharon Raine, Head of Performance and Transformation and Yvonne Coates, Head of Early Intervention and First Contact.

CYP77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

CYP78. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 19 February 2018.

With regard to Minute CYP75/Feb/18, Councillor Crudass questioned if anything further had been done on training for Members on the role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO); and the Chair advised Members that work was still on going with the joint review of Childhood Obesity and Dental Health.

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

CYP79. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2017/18 QUARTER 3 – The Director of Children and Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide an update on performance against key performance indicators for quarter three (October to December) 2017/18.

The submitted report highlighted where Children and Young People were performing well and where there was a need to improve.

The submitted report also contained the Children’s Social Care Monthly Performance and Quality Assurance Report for Quarter three.

The submitted report highlighted that contracts completed within one working day was 97 per cent exceeding the target of 95 per cent and 0.6 per cent of contracts were completed in more than three working days: 97 per cent of referrals during quarter 3 were completed within one working day above the 90 per cent target and

1.5 per cent of referrals taking more than 72 hours to complete which was better than the target of 5 per cent; the percentage of assessments completed within 45 working days was 95 per cent which exceeded the target of 90 per cent and higher than statistical neighbours and the England average; at the end of quarter three 100 per cent of child protection reviews were completed within timescale evidencing that children subject to Child Protection are seen and safeguarded; 94 per cent of statutory visits of Looked After Children were completed in timescale at the end of quarter three which was better than the target of 90 per cent and above 2016/17 year end of 87 per cent; and at the end of quarter three 27.3 per cent of Care Leavers were not in employment, education or training (NEET) which was above the target of 30 per cent and a reduction of 1.9 per cent when compared with quarter two. Of the Care Leavers currently NEET there were 77 per cent not available to work due to illness, pregnancy or parenting.

The submitted report also highlighted areas for improvement which included the number of re-referrals within 12 months of a previous referral at 177, which although there was an improving picture still remains higher than the local target and the statistical benchmark; the rate of children in care who have been in their current placement for two years or more was 58 per cent which was an improvement but still below the local target of 65 per cent; and 59 per cent of children in care had an up to date review health check and 51 per cent had an up to date dental check and despite both being higher than at the same point in 2016/17 has been continually monitored by the Head of Service.

Particular reference was made to the Full System Conversion Flow for Quarter two 2017/18 which analysed how children had progressed through the Social Care System over the past 11 months. Members discussed the Flow Chart and raised a question in relation to the procedures in place to support this flow. The Head of Performance and Transformation confirmed that procedure were in place, some statutory and these were reviewed regularly. There is also an Electronic Procedures Library available also for social workers to access at any time.

Members also asked if the views of the social workers were still being taken into account and the Head of Performance and Transformation confirmed that since Liquid Logic went live in 2016 there had been some initial problems in relation to the data but this had now been resolved and now at the performance clinics there is a focus on the reasons behind the data rather than on its accuracy.

A Member referred to a visit by Members of this Scrutiny Committee to the Adoption Team after the introduction of Liquid Logic and the feedback that was received and suggested that Scrutiny Members undertake a similar exercise in another area to gain views now after Liquid Logic has been fully embedded.

Members also made particular reference to the increase in numbers of Looked After Children missing from home and the actions that had been taken to address this. The Head of Early Intervention and First Contact advised Members that this data can vary on a particular cohort at any particular time and the return to home interviews are used to ascertain a number of reasons the young children go missing from home. It was agreed that a report on the interventions in place and the reasons to why these children go missing be presented to the next meeting of this Scrutiny

Committee scheduled for 2 July 2018 and that the Police Liaison Officer also be invited to attend.

RESOLVED – That quarter three performance data be noted.

CYP80. WORK PROGRAMME – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide an update on the current work programme for this Scrutiny Committee.

The work programme has been reviewed to link it to the outcomes and conditions in the Sustainable Community Strategy and each topic has been linked to performance indicators from the Performance Management Framework to provide accurate data for Members to use when considering topics and the work they wish to undertake.

Members also gave consideration to two quad of aims that had been received since the last meeting of this Scrutiny and in line with the agreed procedure, agreed how to progress these items.

In relation to School Transport it was agreed to include in the work programme for the next meeting of this Scrutiny Committee on 2 July 2018 the Children's Transport Policy for Members to examine the Council's liabilities and duties in relation to school transport and the cost of fulfilling those duties.

In relation to the Autism Provision at Hurworth School Members of this Scrutiny Committee agreed that as autism was currently an on-going review of the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee and that the Chair would discuss this item further at the next meeting of the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group.

A Member referred to the Daily Mile Initiative within schools that is being supported by INEOS and as part of the review of Childhood Obesity suggested that Members could look at ways this authority can promote the initiative within the Borough's schools.

The Chair advised Members that he would like to include an item on the work programme on children and young people's mental health and would take a Quad of Aims to the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group for consideration.

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

CYP81. QUESTIONS

The Chair raised a question in relation to the recent Ofsted re-inspection of Children's Services. The Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio advised Members that the recommendations of the inspection were to be published on 21 May 2018, however the initial feedback was good. She also thanked Members of this Scrutiny Committee for their commitment to undertaking training and gaining a better understanding of Children's Services and to those Members who had spoken with the Ofsted Inspectors.

Councillor Crudass asked a question of the Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio in relation to the Children and Adults Capital Programme and the capital release to schools.

