
OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

Work Programme

2. We continue to give consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee and taking into account the ambitious programme of change across the Council and the key role of Scrutiny in ensuring that the programme is able to deliver the service improvements and the budget savings necessary.

NHS Sustainable Transformation Plan

3. We received a presentation from Karen Hawkins, the Director of Commissioning and Transformation and Joanne Heaney, the Head of Commissioning and Strategy, NHS Darlington, Hartlepool and Stockton CCG on the Sustainable Transformation Plan (STP) in relation to Darlington and its impact on the children and young people within the borough and the joint management structure across Darlington, Hartlepool and Stockton Childrens Commissioning.
4. The presentation outlined the ambitions of the STP to ensure that every child has the best start in life and to ensure integrated children's service provision and improve the overall quality and access of services. The presentation also highlighted the overarching project areas contained in the STP i.e. Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND); Mental Health Future in Mind (FIM); Joint Commissioning; Assessing Need; and Maternity and Artificial Reproduction Unit.
5. Contained within the STP are operational plans which have been developed to meet the delivery of the STP for children and adult services and the presentation outlined what has been done in Darlington to date and also future plans.
6. Pathway reviews have also been undertaken or due to be undertaken for Autistic Spectrum Disorder; Obesity; Crisis Liaison; Urgent Care and Emergency Care; 0-19 and Self Care; Looked after Children; Speech and Language Therapy; Special School Nursing; and Equipment.

Year End Performance Report 2016/17

7. We gave consideration to the year-end performance for 2016/17 against the key performance indicators for Children's Social Care examining where we have performed well and areas where there is a need to improve.

8. The Head of Organisational Planning advised us that over the past six weeks officers had been working on a new document with a new format to present Members with performance data which will simplify the information and provide Members with a summary of each key performance indicators, comparable to local and regional targets; and provide system conversion flow charts giving more detailed analysis of performance data for the current year and previous years.
9. This will allow us to analyse the data more thoroughly for quality and practice and challenge areas where we see any anomalies or sudden changes in the data.
10. We discussed in particular the performance indicators in relation to Looked After Children Placements; the number of children subject to a child protection plan which has decreased; and the number of Looked After Children recorded as missing to the police which has had a slight increase.

Early Help

11. We received an update on the current position of Early Help following the extensive remodelling of the service following the Medium Term Financial Plan approval in June 2016.
12. Staff consultation has been completed and all positions were recruited into the final groups within new roles on 1 June 2017. A series of staff engagement and training days have been planned through 2017. The new case management system is working well and allowing for the development of the performance score card to support activity and quality of service. The -0-3 service has been absorbed into the new service and no concerns from families have been raised during the transition. The Early Help Co-Ordinator has continued to offer training to a wide range of agencies. Current performance on the number of Early Help Assessments had shown a 40 per cent increase on the previous year and work is underway to allow targeting of those agencies that did not complete assessments.

Scrutiny Performance Indicators 2017/18

13. We have agreed a basket of indicators for this Scrutiny Committee and the quarterly reporting schedule.
14. The indicators that have been proposed for each individual Scrutiny Committee are aligned against the key priorities agreed within the 2016 Medium Term Financial Plan and will enable each Scrutiny to assess performance and form key indicators to monitor against the Corporate Plan.

Meetings

15. Since the last meeting of Council, I have:
 - (a) Attended meetings of the Improvement Board on 25 May and 22 June 2017.
 - (b) Attended the Intervention Review Meeting with the DFE on 17 May 2017.

(c) Attended the Darlington Vibe Awards on 21 June 2017.

Councillor Chris Taylor
Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee