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**OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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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.
3. Members also gave consideration to two quad of aims that had been received and, in relation to School Transport, it was agreed to receive a report at next meeting of this Scrutiny Committee on 2 July 2018 on the Policy so we can examine the Council's liabilities and duties in relation to school transport and the cost of fulfilling those duties.
4. In relation to Autism Provision at Hurworth School we concluded that as autism was currently an on-going review of the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee I would raise this again at the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group before any further work of this Committee was considered.
5. I advised Members that I would like to include an item on the work programme on children and young people's mental health which was agreed by Members.

**Performance Indicators 2017/18 Quarter 3**

6. We examined the performance against key performance indicators for the period October to December 2017/18.
7. Areas where we are performing well include 97 per cent of contracts were completed within one working day 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 were completed within one working day, which was 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 our statistical neighbours and the England average; and 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.

8. We also noted that 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 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, 77 per cent were not available to work due to illness, pregnancy or parenting.
9. Areas that were highlighted where we are not performing well and require improvement 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.
10. We examined 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. We questioned the procedures in place to support this flow; and asked if the views of the social workers were still being taken into account since Liquid Logic went live in 2016 and were reassured that after some initial problems in relation to the data, 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.
11. We agreed to undertake a similar exercise to the one that Members of this Scrutiny did with the Adoption Team after the introduction of Liquid Logic in another area to gain their views now after Liquid Logic has been fully embedded.
12. We also noted the increase in the 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 we receive a further report on the interventions in place and the reasons to why these children go missing at our next meeting and that the Police Liaison Officer also be invited to attend.

**Councillor Chris Taylor**  
**Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**