

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 21 August 2023

PRESENT – Councillors Allen, Crudass, Layton, Storr and Toms.

APOLOGIES – Councillors Ali, Dillon, Johnson and Renton, Carly Stonier, John Armitage and Sally Hudson.

ABSENT – Councillors Durham, Maura Regan, Tim Fisher and Janet Woodcock.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Tony Murphy (Assistant Director Education and Inclusion), Ken Ross (Public Health Principal), Alison Lavender (Head of Service - Children's Front Door; Building Stronger Families; Young People's Engagement and Justice Service; Independent Review Team and Safeguarding Partnership) and Paul Dalton (Elections Officer)

CYP10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

CYP11 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 JUNE 2023

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 19 June 2023

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 19 June 2023 be approved as a correct record.

CYP12 TO CONSIDER THE TIMES OF MEETINGS OF THIS COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/2024.

Members entered into discussion as to whether it would be beneficial to Committee Members to hold meetings later in the day.

RESOLVED – That meetings of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2023/24 continue to be held at 9.30 a.m. on the dates previously agreed by Cabinet at Minute C258/Feb/2023.

CYP13 QUALITY ASSURANCE - DARLINGTON OWNED CHILDREN'S HOMES

The Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Transformation submitted a report (previously circulated) to update the Scrutiny Committee on the recent review of service assurance in place for Darlington owned Children's Homes, share the improvement opportunities identified, and the action being taken to strengthen confidence in this area.

The submitted report stated that the review was prompted by an inadequate rating of services at one home last Summer, and that the review highlighted opportunities to improve quality management processes in place to ensure that there is more continuous assurance of service performance to regulatory quality standards.

It was reported that the review did not explore how many homes were currently operating or measure services therefore it was not an assessment of, or intended to infer assessment of service quality or performance in any of Darlington's homes.

Members entered into discussion on staffing in children's homes, and the perceived inappropriate content of a newsletter previously circulated.

RESOLVED – That the work completed to review service assurance, and the proposed action plan for improvement, be noted.

CYP14 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PUBLIC HEALTH OVERVIEW

The Group Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members with an update on the Children and Young People Public Health interventions and programs.

The submitted report provided an overview on the Healthy Lifestyles Survey 2023, the Childhood Healthy Weight Plan and the 0-19 Service. It was reported that the Healthy Lifestyles Survey 2023 had been delivered for 14 years with a total of over 8500 pupils across 33 schools completing the survey annually. The topic areas covered by the Survey were outlined, and the submitted report stated that work had been undertaken to conduct a pilot of the Healthy Lifestyle Survey in the town's Further Education settings and sixth forms.

The submitted report outlined the overall objectives of the Darlington Childhood Healthy Weight Plan, and the progress made against these objectives. It was noted that the Darlington Childhood Healthy Weight Plan was in its final year and that work had commenced to evaluate the learning from this plan and the approach and apply this to developing a whole systems approach to the population for the Borough.

The performance of the 0-19 Service provided by Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust was reported on, with Members advised that the service achieved well against the statutory and contract performance targets. It was reported that the service had introduced new interventions, which included new ante natal virtual sessions, training for staff and peer supporters and more collaborative working with Family Centres; had successfully achieved accreditation for the UNICEF Gold Baby Friendly Award; and had enhanced and improved its digital offer.

The submitted report provided a summary of the Child Health Profile for Darlington, which demonstrated a mixed picture, with some key indicators being worse when compared to national figures, and others being better or similar to the national figures.

Members enquired as to whether they could receive a sample of the Healthy Lifestyles Survey and an overview of the questions asked, and were interested to know whether children and young people had a role in preparing the survey questions. Members were interested to know if the use of food banks was covered as part of the Darlington Childhood Healthy Weight Plan.

Discussion ensued on the compilation of the obesity statistics, the perceived lack of exercise in schools, the provision of practical classes, such as sewing, cookery, etc., and the activities undertaken at the 'family hubs', and the insight provided to schools in relation to beliefs and

actions of children and young people.

RESOLVED – That the content of the report be noted.

CYP15 WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024

The Group Director of Operations submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's work programme and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included in the previously approved work programme.

Members noted the extensive number of reports scheduled for the Ordinary Meeting of this Committee in October, however Members were keen to ensure that all proposed business was addressed.

RESOLVED – That the Work Programme be noted.