

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2 July 2018

**PRESENT** – Councillor C Taylor (in the Chair); Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Curry, L. Hughes, KE Kelly, Mills and Storr. (9)

**APOLOGIES** – Councillor Lister and Wright; Jane Kochanowski, Assistant Director Children’s Services; Sharon Raine, Head of Organisational Planning; Yvonne Coates, Head of Early Intervention and First Contact; Bronwen Smith, Senior Manager Placement; Tim Fisher, Non Statutory Co-opted Member; Maura Regan and Glenis Harrison, Community Representative.

**ABSENT** – None (0)

**STATUTORY CO-OPTees** – None. (0)

**NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees** – Glenis Harrison, Community Representative (1)

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Miriam Davidson, Director of Public Health; Joanne Stoddart, Head of Assessment, Care Planning and Looked After Children; and Allison Hill, Democratic Officer.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Councillor C Hughes, Cabinet Member with Children and Young People Portfolio; Councillor W Newall, Chair of the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee; and Dr David Landes, Public Health England.

**CYP1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

**CYP2. TIMES OF MEETINGS – RESOLVED** – That for the remainder of this Municipal Year the timings of meetings of this Scrutiny Committee be held at 9.30 am.

**CYP3. MINUTES** – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 16 April 2018.

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

**CYP4. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 4 2017/18 AND PROPOSED INDICATORS FOR 2018/19** – The Director of Children and Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members with outturn performance data against key performance indicators for 2017/18; to give consideration to the proposed basket of performance indicators for 2018/19; and to note the proposed schedule of performance reporting for 2018/19.

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 Four.

It was highlighted that 96.7 per cent of contacts had been completed within one working day which exceeded the target of 95 per cent and only 0.6 per cent of contacts were completed in more than three working days; 96 per cent of referrals during quarter four were completed within one working day which was above the target of 90 per cent with 1.8 per cent of referrals taking more than 72 hours to complete which was above the target of 5 per cent; the percentage of assessments completed within 45 working days was 93.3 per cent which has consistently exceeded the target of 90 per cent and higher than statistical neighbours and the England average; 100 per cent of child protection reviews had been completed within timescale; 100 per cent of Looked After Children reviews completed within timescale; 93.4 per cent of Looked After Children statutory visits were completed within timescale and better than the target of 90 per cent and the 2016/17 year end performance at 87 per cent; 100 per cent of all Children in Need, Children Protection and Children in Care had been allocated a Social Worker and had been consistently sustained; and 32.2 per cent of Care Leavers were not in employment, education or training (NEET) which was above the target of 33 per cent and of the 19 Care Leavers currently NEET there were 12 are 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 247, which although showing an improvement still remained higher than the local target of 20 per cent; the percentage of children who had been in their current placement for two years or more who had been in care for two and half years or more increased to 65.1 per cent at the end of March 2018 reaching the target of 65 per cent however performance remains behind benchmarks and therefore remains an area for improvement; the percentage of children placed 20 miles or more away from homes has increased to 12 per cent the end of March compared to the 2016/17 year end performance at 7.8 per cent; and at the end of March there were 87.5 percent (140/160) of children with an up to date dental check in the past 12 months although there were an additional 12 children (7.5 per cent) who had refused a dental check this did show an increase on previous year-end performance which was 75.9 per cent.

It was also reported that the 2017/18 basket of indicators had been reviewed by Directors and Assistant Directors for continued relevance and on 4 June 2018 the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group reviewed and agreed the proposed set of indicators for 2018/19 and their allocation to the individual Scrutiny Committees. Since the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group met further review suggests the proposed set is increased to include those additional indicators this Scrutiny Committee received during 2017/18.

Members expressed their concerns at the increase in the number of children who had refused a dental check and the Head of Assessment, Care Planning and Looked After Children advised Members that the numbers related to the older children who were 16/17 years old and officers were looking at different ways to engage with these young people to ensure that they have regular dental and health checks.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the performance information relating to Quarter 4 be noted.

(b) That the proposed basket of performance indicators for 2018/19 be approved.

(c) That the proposed schedule for performance reporting for 2019/19 be noted.

**CYP5. EARLY INTERVENTIONS FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN MISSING FROM CARE** – The Director of Children and Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide information regarding children who are Looked After and who experience missing from home episodes following a request by Members at the meeting held on 16 April 2018.

The submitted report outlined some of the reasons children and young people may go missing; the link between children and young people who go missing and exploitation; and Ofsted feedback regarding the management of children and young people who go missing from home and care.

The submitted report also detailed interventions in place to address and reduce missing episodes for children and young people including this authority's procedures for managing children and young people who go missing; placement stability and the duty on the local authority to place a child or young person in the most appropriate placement; and a Secure Order which can be obtained from the Court if all other options for the child or young person have been exhausted.

Members questioned whether information was kept on whether those missing from care had any specific special needs and expressed the importance of having this information as there was evidence to suggest that children on the autistic spectrum were more likely to go missing and also be at risk of sexual exploitation; and that going missing was the first sign that there were problems.

Councillor C Hughes confirmed that every case of missing from care was thoroughly examined by her and the Director of Children and Adults Services and any social aspects were taken into consideration.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

**CYP6. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS** – The Assistant Director Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) to advise Members of the appointment of two non-voting co-opted representatives.

Kate Chisholm, Chair of the Primary School Forum and Head Teacher of Skerne Park Academy and Nick Lindsay, 11-19 Partnership and Head Teacher of Longfield Academy have volunteered to be co-opted Members of this Scrutiny Committee and will be invited to attend all future meetings of this Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED** – That the appointments be noted.

**CYP7. CHILDHOOD OBESITY AND DENTAL HEALTH CARE** – The Members of the Joint Review Group, established by this Scrutiny committee to examine Childhood Obesity and Dental Health Care and any associated Mental Health Links submitted a

report to make an interim recommendation in relation to any prospective water fluoridation scheme in Darlington.

The submitted report outlined the investigations of the Joint Review Group in relation to poor dental health outcomes in Darlington with strong links between the highest obesity rates and the poorest dental health being most prevalent in the most deprived areas of the Borough.

It was also reported that dental decay was a significant public health problem in the North East and Darlington had levels of decay in children significantly higher than the average for England.

Joy Warren, Joint Co-ordinator, UK Freedom from Fluoride Alliance; and Alan Hall and Michael Watson, Members of the Public attended the meeting and were given an opportunity by the Chair to speak and express their concerns to the Members by the introduction of a water fluoridation scheme in Darlington.

Dr David Landes, Public Health England also attended the meeting and advised the Members that there was a long history of residents who drink fluoride naturally and that Hartlepool have had fluoridated water since the 1840's and that there was a large body of evidence to show a reduction of dental disease in those areas; and areas which had a water fluoride scheme. He advised that there was also a 59 per cent reduction in general levels of anaesthesia. He also advised Members that a water fluoridation scheme would benefit those in the most deprived areas of the borough.

Glenis Harrison, Community Representative advised the Members that within her Community Centre on a daily basis she sees poor dental health among the parents of young children and felt that there was an issue of parental education for them to be able to take responsibility for the dental health care of their children.

Members agreed that dental decay was a global issue and that an issue authorities needed to examine was to narrow the gap on poor dental health and that water fluoridation could be a way to help.

The Director of Public Health confirmed that the recommendation of the Joint Review Group was to carry out a technical appraisal only and not to make a decision on any potential water fluoridation scheme at this time.

**RESOLVED** – That this Scrutiny Committee supports the joint work underway to gather information required for consideration about any prospective water fluoridation scheme in Darlington and recommends to Cabinet that it agrees to carry out a technical appraisal for consideration of a water fluoridation scheme in Darlington and/or the Tees Valley.

**CYP8. WORK PROGRAMME** – The Assistant Director Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide an update on the current work programme for this Scrutiny Committee.

The work programme has been reviewed and revised for the Municipal Year 2018/19 and has been linked to performance indicators from the Performance Management

Framework to provide robust and accurate data for Members to use when considering topics and the work they wish to undertake

With regard to the quad of aims for a review of the Autism Provision at Hurworth School submitted to the Monitoring and Co-Ordination Group, it was agreed that Councillor Mills lead on this Review after the Summer Recess.

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