

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 11 March 2019

PRESENT – Councillors C Taylor (Chair), Curry, L Hughes, Kelly, Lister and Mills

STATUTORY CO-OPTES – Carly Spence

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTES – Glenis Harrison and John Armitage

APOLOGIES – Councillors Storr and Mrs Culley, ,

ABSENT – Councillors Crudass, Wright, Malcolm Frank, Maura Regan, Tim Fisher, Nick Lindsay, Sajna Miah and Janet Woodcock

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Vicky Davidson-Boyd (Adoption Tees Valley)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jane Kochanowski (Assistant Director of Children's Services), Sharon Raine (Head of Performance and Transformation), Allison Hill (Democratic Officer) and Dave Coates (Head of Planning, Development and Environmental Health)

CYP33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

CYP34 MINUTES

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 10 December 2018 and 21 January 2019.

With regard to Minute CYP28/Dec/18, the Head of Planning Development, Management and Environmental Health attended the meeting and responded to Members' questions in relation to planning conditions around the setup up of private residential children's homes and the differences between C2 (residential institutions) and C3 (dwelling houses) use classification.

Following discussion thereon Members were aware that it is the responsibility of the provider to request a change of use from a C3, private dwelling to C2 and were assured that the classification of children's homes within this local authority is determined as C2 ensuring planning permission in consultation with Children's Services in all cases.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings held on 10 December 2018 and 21 January 2019 be approved as a correct record.

CYP35 QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2018/19

The Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members with an update on performance against key

performance indicators.

The submitted report provided Quarter 3 (October to December 2018) 2018/19 performance information in line with an indicator set agreed by the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group and subsequently by each individual Scrutiny Committee.

The submitted report highlighted where Children and Young People were performing well and where there was a need to improve. It was also highlighted that where indicators are reported annually quarterly updates will not be available.

It was highlighted that 98.1 per cent of contacts had been completed within 24 working hours; 97.3 per cent of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) had been held within 15 working days from the Strategy meeting held/Section 47 being initiated; 100 per cent Child Protection reviews had been completed within the required timescales; 100 per cent of children with a Child Protection Plan and 100 per cent of Children Looked After had an allocated social worker; 99.2 per cent of Looked After Reviews had been completed within timescale; 89.6 per cent of statutory visits to Looked After Children had been completed in timescale; 93.8 per cent who had a review health assessment due had received their assessment within the required timescale; and 19.3 per cent of Care Leavers were not in employment, education or training (NEET).

The areas highlighted for improvement in Quarter 3 was the timeliness of assessments which was slightly below the target of 90 per cent; 94.2 per cent statutory child protection visits were completed within 15 working days with 77.8 completed within 10 working days, slightly behind Quarters 1 and 2; missing from home interviews had been offered within 72 hours in 91.3 per cent of the cases; and the rate of Looked After Children was 111.6 per 10,000 population which was above statistical regional and national benchmarks.

Members discussed in particular the increase in Section 47 enquiries and increase in the number of Looked After Children and the Assistant Director of Children's Services advised Members of the rationale for this increase, inclusive of regional and national changes in legislation and gave assurance of the continual monitoring of the situation.

Members also discussed the numbers of young people coming into care and those leaving care and the processes involved for those young people leaving care.

RESOLVED – That the performance information provided for Quarter 3 2018/19 be noted.

CYP36 UPDATE REGARDING 'STAYING PUT' ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE PREVIOUSLY IN FOSTER CARER PLACEMENTS

The Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide update information regarding the cost of funding to age 21 for young people in previous foster care placements.

The submitted report detailed the legal framework which provides that Local Authorities provide Staying Put arrangements and the number of current Staying Put Arrangements; and gave details of the costs from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018

together with projected expenditure for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

It was reported that as of 21 January 2019 there were 10 Staying Put arrangements in place and the cost of internal provision ranged from £160.00 to £350.00 per week dependent upon age and individual circumstances. The cost of Independent Fostering Agency provision agreed as part of the Tees Valley Framework was £340.00 per week.

The submitted report also outlined the monitoring and evaluation of Staying Put arrangements via regular support meetings following the young person reaching the age of 18 years; the benefits of 'Staying Put' for young people and the Service; and the priorities for 2019/20 to promote the importance of Staying Put.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

CYP37 ADOPTION TEES VALLEY BI-ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT 2018

Vicky Davidson-Boyd, Service Manager, Adoption Tees Valley presented Adoption Tees Valley Bi Annual Summary Report 1 May 2018 to 30 September 2018 and outlined the work that had been undertaken across the Tees Valley during 1 May 2018 and 30 September 2018.

Adoption Tees Valley commenced operating as a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) on the 1 May 2018 bringing together the former Local Authority adoption agency services of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton.

The submitted report reviewed the adoption activity, as defined by the Adoption Leadership Scorecard (ALB) measures for the first 5 months of operation; outlined the key aim of the RAA on the impact of timeliness of children waiting for adoption and on the time that adopters wait for a match; and detailed the support offered for adopted children and their families and adopters.

The Service Manager also highlighted the future challenges faced by the RAA including sufficiency of adopters, completion of Life Story Books, continuing to develop links with health and schools and data transfer.

Members questioned the working relationship between Darlington and Teesside and the Service Manager advised that there were no reported issues and good cohesive regional working was in place; how Members scrutinise timeliness; the average age of children being adopted; support available for children into early adulthood, especially if they decide to seek their birth parents; and adoption within the black and minority ethnic community.

The Head of Transformation and Performance advised Members that adoption performance data was currently reported and Tees Valley data will also feed into this authority's reporting mechanism.

The Service Manager advised Members that the average age was 7 to 9 years of age; a Young Persons Forum was due to commence in April to shape and understand services and offer support to these young people; adopters are

encouraged to keep in contact with birth families; and there was only a small number of black and minority ethnic children coming through the system for adoption and these children are racially matched.

RESOLVED – That the Adoption Tees Valley Bi-annual Summary Report 2018 be noted.

CYP38 WORK PROGRAMME

The Managing Director 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.

Following discussion and questions raised at the meeting with the Head of Planning Development, Management and Environmental Health in relation to residential children's homes Members agreed to include in the work programme for 2019/20 an item to monitor the number of private children's homes in the borough.

With regard to the Review Group on Childhood Obesity it was acknowledged that the work on dental health care had been completed and that Members will progress childhood obesity and mental health links by monitoring the effectiveness of the Childhood Healthy Weight Plan and the item to remain on the work programme.

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