

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 1 July 2019

PRESENT – Councillors Bartch (Chair), Mrs Culley, Ali, Bell, C L B Hughes, L Hughes, Lister, Lucas, Preston, Renton and Snedker

STATUTORY CO-OPTees – Carly Spence

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees – John Armitage

APOLOGIES – Tim Fisher and Glenis Harrison

ABSENT – Malcolm Frank, Maura Regan, Nick Lindsay and Janet Woodcock

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Crudass

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jane Kochanowski (Assistant Director of Children's Services), Allison Hill (Democratic Officer), Paul Richardson (Head of Skills and Employability) and Tony Murphy (Head of Education and Inclusion)

CYP39 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019/20

RESOLVED – That Councillor Bartch be appointed Chair of this Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

CYP40 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019/20

RESOLVED – That Councillor Mrs Culley be appointed Vice-Chair of this Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

CYP41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED - There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

CYP42 TO CONSIDER THE TIMES OF MEETINGS OF THIS COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019/20

RESOLVED - That meetings of this Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee be held at 9.30 a.m. for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2019/20.

CYP43 MINUTES

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 11 March 2019.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 11 March 2019 be approved as a correct record.

CYP44 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 4 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 4 (January to March 2019) 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 98.2 per cent of referrals are screened and completed within one day which was above the target of 90 per cent; 17.5 per cent of re-referrals were repeated within 12 months which was in an increase on the target of 18 per cent; 100 per cent of children with a Child Protection Plan and 100 per cent of Children Looked After have an allocated social worker; 92.1 per cent who had a dental health assessment due, received their assessment within the required timescale; and 25 per cent of Care Leavers who were not in employment, education or training (NEET) exceeded the target set of 33 per cent.

The areas highlighted for improvement in Quarter 4 was the timeliness of assessments which was slightly below the target of 90 per cent and the reasons for this have been analysed and monitored by the Head of Service; 95.7 per cent of statutory child protection visits were completed within 15 working days with 79.4 per cent completed within 10 working days; and 82.6 per cent statutory looked after children visits were completed within the timeline and all those visits that do not take place within the set days are closely managed; and the rate of looked after children has increased and is currently 110.6 per 10,000 population which was above statistical regional and national benchmarks and this increase was currently being scrutinised to determine if there were any areas that could be strengthened to safety reduce this number.

Members discussed in particular the increase in Section 47 enquiries, which was a significant increase from the previous year and the work being undertaken to reduce the number of enquires; the number of Care Leavers who were NEET and the number of reasons why they were not in education, employment or training; the reduction of timely completion of assessments throughout 2018/19 when compared to the previous year's reporting; the improvements made to the missing from home interviews and what was being done to engage parents in this process to work with the police, health and social care representatives; and clarification on re-referrals which was currently better than the target but remains below statistical numbers, national and north east benchmarks; the current workload situation for social workers; improvement on the percentage of children who had moved placement three or more times; and the improved position regarding Foster Carers.

A Member also questioned if information on referrals made to the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) from school and also for Special Education Needs referrals was collated and was advised by the Head of Education

and Inclusion that currently this data is not being collected but he assured Members he would raise this with colleagues in the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and report back to Members of this Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED – That the performance information provided for Quarter 4 2018/19 be noted.

CYP45 LEARNING AND SKILLS ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

The Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members with an update on the performance of the Learning and Skills Service for the academic year 2017/18.

It was reported that the Learning and Skills Service continues to perform well with a 'Good' Ofsted grade whilst supporting some of the most vulnerable adults, young people and families in Darlington; and have put in place further checks and controls to ensure the service continues to perform at a high level as a result of the shift of provision due to a change in the demographic of the learners.

Members asked about progress since the last Ofsted inspection report and it was pointed out that growing apprenticeship numbers had proven difficult due to the changes to the apprenticeship funding model and the shift from frameworks to standards. However, it was reported by the Head of Skills and Employability that the service had employed an Employer Engagement Officer to address this. Members also asked how the Service could demonstrate the wider impact and it was agreed that some case studies would be shared with the next annual report.

The submitted report also highlighted some challenges to be faced in 2019/20 with the devolution of the Adult Education Budget and ongoing challenges of apprenticeship funding.

General discussion ensued among Members on the provision of apprenticeships and their concerns around the apprenticeship levy; and the impact of the devolution of the Adult Education Budget to the Tees Valley Combined Authority to support the adult learning provision for Tees Valley residents and Members agreed that they would monitor this to see how it affects our learners.

Members also agreed that it would be useful to speak with a representative of the Education and Skills Funding Agency to share data on how the funding for apprenticeships is allocated and be requested to attend a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED – That the annual report be noted.

CYP46 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 2019/20 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.

Discussion ensued on the current work programme and it was suggested to complete a quad of aims to examine the increase in home schooling; and to examine the number of children going from nursery to primary and the 30 hours provision.

It was also agreed to bring forward the current work programme item on Academy Trusts to a future meeting and request the Schools Commissioner attend.

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