

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Monday, 3 February 2020

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

**STATUTORY CO-OPTees** – Carly Spence

**NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees** – Nick Lindsay, Glenis Harrison and John Armitage

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Bell and Lister; Tim Fisher

**ABSENT** – Councillor Preston; Malcolm Frank, Maura Regan and Janet Woodcock

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Councillor Crudass

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Jane Kochanowski (Assistant Director of Children's Services), Christine Shields (Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Transformation), Tony Murphy (Head of Education and Inclusion), Ken Ross (Public Health Principal) and Allison Hill (Democratic Officer)

### **CYP69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

### **CYP70 MINUTES**

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 16 December 2019 and 13 January 2020.

With regard to Minute CYP62/Dec/29, in respect of the Childcare Sufficiency Review 2019-20, Councillor Snedker advised the Committee that Members wished to submit their concerns and observations and their recommendations were forwarded to Councillor Crudass, Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio requesting that he report these recommendations to Cabinet.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 16 December 2019 and 13 January 2020 be approved as a correct record.

### **CYP71 CHILDHOOD HEALTHY WEIGHT PLAN**

The Director of Public Health submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members with an overview on the progress of the Darlington Childhood Healthy Weight Plan

It was reported that the aim of the Plan was to ensure that more children leave primary school aged 10-11 years with a healthy weight and sets out a whole system approach to tackling obesity and it was reported that in Darlington childhood obesity is above the national average at both reception and year 6 age groups and the percentage of children at year 6 who are categorised as obese in Darlington was 21.2

per cent.

The submitted report outlined the overall objectives of the Healthy Weight Plan; gave details of the multi-agency session that was held on 24 September 2019 to officially launch the Plan and the feedback gathered from the partnership event; and outlined the actions that had been proposed to align with the priorities of the Plan to achieve a population approach to tackling the issue.

Discussion ensued on how this authority can work with developers to ensure that new housing developments incorporate green spaces and play areas to encourage healthier lifestyles; and how the Plan will raise awareness to encourage more children with a healthy weight and to work with Planning Officers to highlight the impact of planning decisions on childhood obesity.

Members also discussed advertising of 'junk food' near schools and in bus shelters; promoting active travel; examining planning and licensing legislation to minimise the number of fast food outlets and how the authority can work with schools to enforce this message; and acknowledging pre-birth and maternal obesity.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the report be noted.

(b) That Members support the actions set out in the report to implement a whole system approach to tackling obesity.

(c) That Members of this Scrutiny continue to receive regular updates on any actions from the Partnership

## **CYP72 VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR FUNDING: UPDATE ON PILOT COMMUNITY BASED INITIATIVES**

The Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Transformation submitted a report (previously circulated) to update Members on the community based initiatives funded from Voluntary Sector Development Fund monies, piloted during 2019/20.

It was reported that in late 2018, the Chief Officers Executive gave approval for the implementation of seven pilot community based initiatives using Voluntary Sector Development monies and agreed at a series of workshops attended by representatives from the Council, the Police, Health, Education, the Fire Brigade and a wide range of both small and large community and voluntary sector organisations.

The submitted report detailed the progress to date on each of the initiatives identified to reduce isolation and loneliness in adults to improve health and wellbeing and to provide early intervention support to vulnerable families to support children and young people to remain in education and live at home.

It was reported that there was initially £142,000 allocated and an additional £21,000 had recently been made available from the Community Facilities Fund which had been ring fenced to benefit the Skerne Park area of the borough.

Discussion ensued on the various community based initiatives and raised questions in relation to the methods of engagement, especially for those not involved in

Community Groups and if the views of young people had also been collected; utilising Members Newsletters to continue engagement; and how success of the various initiatives will be collected and measured.

The Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Transformation advised Members that a Steering Group had been established to monitor the success of the initiatives and as the community based initiatives cover a number of Scrutiny Committees she will provide a joint briefing at a future date.

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

### **CYP73 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

Pursuant to Minute CYP68/Jan/20, the Head of Education and Inclusion gave a verbal update on the current position regarding Home to School Transport following a request by Members at the Special Meeting held to consider the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2020-21 to 2023-24.

The Head of Education outlined the various challenges being faced by the authority and secondary schools with the introduction of the Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations (PSVAR) introduced on 31 December 2000 and its subsequent effect on school transport which has been a national issue.

It was reported that the introduction of the regulations would impact school fares being charged on the transport routes operated by schools which currently stand at £3.00 per day and had led to an increase up to £4.00 per day during the current academic year.

The Head of Education and Inclusion advised the Members that there had been a reduction in the number of fare paying parents going forward which had led to a shortfall in funding to operate those routes, however the local authority will continue to purchase seats at the new fare price and had committed further funds to maintain routes to the end of the 2019/20 school year.

The Local Authority will continue to work closely with schools on the arrangements for September 2020.

**RESOLVED** – That the verbal update be noted.

### **CYP74 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Managing Director 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

Councillor C Hughes requested that an item on Adoptive Services be included in the work programme and a Quad of Aims will be submitted to the next meeting for Members consideration.

**RESOLVED** –That the work programme be noted.

**(1) QUAD OF AIMS**

Councillor Mills, Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio submitted a Quad of Aims requesting that this Scrutiny Committee consider a Joint Review to examine autism provision within Darlington Borough Council.

**RESOLVED** – (a) that a joint Review Group be established to undertake the work outlined in the Quad of Aims.

(b) That Councillors Bartch and Renton be nominated to represent this Scrutiny Committee on the joint Review Group.

(c) That the Work Programme be updated accordingly.