

**North Yorkshire County Council****24 July 2013****Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee****Chairman's Statement**

My Chairman's statement for this full council includes details of the Committee meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2013. This was the first meeting of the new committee following the County Council elections. The meeting focussed on the Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire, Early Help and Child Protection The Task Group report on the School Nursing service in North Yorkshire, non statutory co-optees place on the Committee as well as a regular report from the Executive Member County Councillor Tony Hall and the Corporate Director for Children and Young People's Service Peter Dwyer.

**1. Update from Executive Member County Councillor Tony Hall and the Corporate Director for Children and Young People's Service Peter Dwyer.**

The Committee agreed with Mr Dwyer as he outlined the priorities for the children and young people's service and stressed that the Authority should recognise the good work that has been done but should also be ambitious and look to secure access to good and outstanding education for all children and young people. We echo those sentiments.

We were encouraged to hear of a new approach to work more collaboratively with schools with the development of a North Yorkshire Commission for school improvement, and look forward to hearing how this is working at an appropriate point in the future.

It is important to recognise the talents of those people working within CYPS and logical to use that talent to work on narrowing the gap on attainment for rural and coastal schools. Again we look forward to updates on progress in this area in the future.

The Committee was pleased to hear that the findings of recent review of services for Special Educational Needs were to be revisited and that any opportunity to encourage further inclusive education with the development of in-house provision and referral units would be encouraged.

Finally the Committee was also advised of the ambition to reduce the care population within the County (and those children and young people placed outside of the County) with work to enhance the early help and support provision through integrated, preventative services.

The Executive Member; County Councillor Tony Hall referred to a quote he often used that said, "the more we understand, the more we can help". We would agree! And look forward to broadening our knowledge and looking to work with the Executive and the Directorate to provide constructive challenge.

## **2. Non Statutory Co-Optees**

The Committee was asked to give its views on whether or not we should continue to have non statutory co optees as part of the Committee. The report gave us the background on how the voluntary sector and primary and secondary school teachers were represented on the Committee. It also gave detail on how the nominations were made.

We felt it was important that as wide a view was sought on issues that come to the Committee and that the non statutory co-optees had in the past played an important part in this. Therefore we were happy to support the existing arrangements.

## **3. Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire Survey 2012**

The report on the Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire Survey 2012 was comprehensive to say the least! It detailed the commissioning arrangement, the purpose of the biennial questionnaire, the survey methodology, the participation level and the future plans for the survey.

Katharine Bruce (Lead adviser wellbeing) informed us that 290 primary schools, 39 secondary schools and 10 special schools had taken part in the survey along with 6 academies. This saw the views of over 16,000 children and young people attending mainstream schools and pupil referral units in North Yorkshire!

The key findings as you would expect highlighted positive findings as well as emerging issues. For example Year 6 pupils in North Yorkshire in 2012 are more positive about their school than in 2010, a greater proportion have high self esteem while secondary school pupils in 2012 are more positive about their lessons on sexual health and drugs and are more likely to say that school lessons are their main source of information about relationships and sexual health. The emerging issues included 74% of secondary school pupils worry about at least one problem 'quite a lot' or 'a lot' and year 10 pupils in rural areas were more likely to report ever having had sex, yet also had poorer knowledge about sexually transmitted infections than pupils in urban areas.

The findings from the survey are shared with relevant partners and we would expect that this information is used to improve outcomes. We have requested a feedback report in 12 months time that will show us where and how the information has been used.

## **4 Early Help and Child Protection**

As many of the Committee members are not only new to the Committee but also new to the County Council I felt it would be helpful to have a broad look at what was happening around early help and child protection. This meant however that it really was a whistle stop tour but it gives us the opportunity to ask for more in-depth reports at a later date.

We soon learnt that it is not about "early years" moreover it's about intervening early on. It involves services across CYPS and our partners in the Children's Trust. It also takes time for early intervention services to be able to demonstrate effectiveness in a quantitative way. We agreed that this requires brave leadership to stay committed!

It is encouraging for the Committee to see that a Key strength for North Yorkshire is that it is aligned with high quality universal services, well managed, with workers from whatever service or agency being well supported. This sees strong working between early intervention services and children's social care, with mutual respect and joint reporting.

The Committee were advised that at present there are just over 800 families being supported through parent support advisors in children's centres, nearly 250 young people are having focused individual support through Targeted Youth Support and over 630 children are being supported through multi-agency Team Around the Child interventions.

The Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) we were informed is currently developing its business plan which will include strategic themes with priority outcomes and actions identified for each:

- Child Sexual exploitation and multiple vulnerabilities
- Promotion of early help and recognition & response to neglect
- Feedback from & participation of children, young people & families and their influence on service development

With regard to child sexual exploitation it is important to keep actions to protect our children at the top of everyone's priority list! Therefore we were pleased to hear that there is a Multi-agency subgroup of the LSCB which is led by the police and involves:

- establishing a multi-agency approach to deter, disrupt & detect
- Plan to use the Performance Award Grant to scope the likely prevalence in North Yorkshire
- develop a strategy & action plan for next 3 years work

Locally, the Developing Stronger Families Programme will: -

- Improve outcomes for families by delivering effective and efficient whole family services across all partners
- Enable families to participate actively in the assessment and planning of support services which reflect their specific requirements
- Transform the way agencies and partners work together to deliver services to families so as to ensure that they are responsive, flexible, integrated and inclusive

Develop strong leadership to ensure that all agencies work together to achieve the vision

So as you can see we had a considerable amount of information to take in and we look forward to further updates throughout the year.

## **5 The School Nursing Service in North Yorkshire**

This was the final report of a Task Group that had been part of the previous Committee. Members were happy to sign it off and pass it to the Executive Member to take forward. We noted that public health services for children passed to the County Council in April 2013 and we look forward to an update on progress towards the model for health visiting to provide continuity of services from 0 – 19.

## **6 Work programme**

The Committee looks to identify its next in depth scrutiny review at the meeting 18 October 2013.

**County Councillor Elizabeth Shields**

Chairman Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

July 2013