

**North Yorkshire County Council**

**13 November 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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2013. The meeting focussed on preparations for the implementation of the children and families bill for special educational needs, school funding, the annual report of the Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire, how the County Council's Children and Young People's Service contributes to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, a regular report from the Executive Member County Councillor Arthur Barker and the appointment of two non statutory co-optees on the Committee.

**1. Appointment of Non Statutory Co-Optees**

The Committee agreed the appointment of the non statutory co-optees representing the voluntary sector as Jon Carling from the North Yorkshire & York Forum for Voluntary Organisations and Ken Allinson from the Richmondshire YMCA.

**2. Update from Executive Member County Councillor Arthur Barker.**

County Councillor Arthur Barker updated Members on:

- Attainment. On the whole North Yorkshire schools are judged as good or very good. However Cllr Barker advised the Committee that the newly developed North Yorkshire Commission for School Improvement would be working towards ensuring all North Yorkshire children attend schools that are judged as good or outstanding in the future.
- Pupil numbers. Significant growth in primary school numbers is expected by 2017 and this will result in extra primary school places being required. Options are currently being considered.
- Review of school structures. In response to the requirement for extra primary school places, school funding reform, falling numbers in small schools, the changes around the provision of special educational needs and disabilities it is appropriate for the Authority to review the current school structures.

**3. The Children and Families Bill Special Educational Needs – Update on preparation for implementation**

Members were impressed with the enthusiasm shown by officers in preparing for this biggest change in Special Educational needs in 30 years!

The Children and Families Bill, due for implementation in September 2014, will bring significant changes for children and young people (age 0-25 years) with SEN and for their families. The key changes should ensure improved working between education, health and social care services, both strategically and operationally; give parents and young people greater influence and control, and more say in the help that they receive; improve Transition to adulthood, and enable personal budgets and choice in some of the help provided.

#### **4 School Funding**

We were advised by officers that in 2011 the Department for Education (DfE) confirmed that it would be introducing a National Funding Formula (NFF), to distribute the Dedicated Schools Grant. This was part of the Department's reform of the school funding system, to make it "fairer, more consistent and transparent and so funding intended for education reaches the schools and the pupils that need it most".

The Committee was concerned that the changes would be detrimental to many schools within North Yorkshire including:

- The ability to allocate funding to small schools in rural areas
- The requirement to have the same size lump sum for all schools regardless of whether it was a primary or secondary and had 15 or 1,500 pupils
- Funding for pupil mobility
- Deprivation funding; the use of purely income related measures are not suitable for a rural local authority.

Members were reassured to some extent that as a result of the County Council working closely with the schools forum and feeding into the DfE review, that some changes will be made for April 2014.

#### **5 Annual report of the Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire 2013**

The Committee supported the principles of the annual report of the Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire, to :

- Reduce the inequalities in health that are apparent across the county between the most affluent communities and those that suffer from high levels of social and economic deprivation.
- Focus on happy and healthy ageing, helping people to maintain their health and independence as they grow older and move into retirement.
- Continue to support Sir Michael Marmot's principle of giving every child the best start in life, and also consider how we can ensure that our young people move from education into employment in the County.
- Have the public's health and wellbeing as a central consideration in the decision making of all of the organisations and agencies within North Yorkshire; particularly North Yorkshire County Council, the Clinical Commissioning Groups and the District Councils, recognising that Public Health is about the big picture in our society not just individual choice and behaviour,
- Harness the enthusiasm and sense of wellbeing that has been created by hosting the Grand Départ of the 2014 Le Tour de France, with the aim of creating a social and physical activity legacy in the County.
- Prevent the health and social harms caused by high levels of alcohol consumption and lack of awareness of the dangers of increased drinking, not just in our town centres but in our homes.

**6 Children & Young People's Service Contributions to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

Members were reassured that the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the work of the Health and wellbeing Board is influenced by the work ongoing within the County Council's Children and Young People's service and the Children's Trust Board.

**7. Work programme**

The Committee agreed the next in-depth scrutiny review as online safety of children and young people. The Task and Finish Working Group for this review is made up of County Councillors Joe Plant, Val Arnold, David Jeffels, Janet Sanderson and co-opted member Graham Richards.

**County Councillor Elizabeth Shields**

Chairman Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Oct 2013