

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**15 February 2017**

**YOUNG PEOPLES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**

**Growing Up in North Yorkshire**

1. I was pleased that the committee was able to review the results of the Growing Up in North Yorkshire Survey Report before this year's publication date. This is a hugely important document; its range of information is impressive, covering group reports for example for the teaching alliances, Closing the gap project school groups and further bespoke analysis, e.g. analysis of the survey results for service family pupils, looked after children, pupil premium, young carers, minority ethnic, LGB and Transgender pupils.
2. I am grateful to the Corporate Director and his staff for putting in the extra effort that must have been necessary to get the analysis completed in so short a time, without losing any of the high level of quality of interpretation that we've come to expect. I also want to thank and pay tribute to all the pupils and schools who took part. There was 100% participation rate of all local authority maintained secondary schools with the majority of secondary school academies taking part (10/12). Primary school uptake was similar to 2014, and it was pleasing to see the increased uptake of Special Schools.
3. As far as scrutiny is concerned, being able to review it before it was published meant that we could take a view on the rigour of the survey process, how the results had been analysed, and receive reassurance that the potential of the findings to help children and young people and the services that support them, is being used to the greatest possible extent.
4. We liked the introduction in the 2016 survey of an increased focus on risk taking behaviours, including additional questions on online safety, use of e-cigarettes and healthy relationships. Also useful, and informative, is the broadening of the approach to reporting to include a specific focus on outcomes for 'Disadvantaged pupils' in every report where sample size permits.
5. The range of information is simply too wide for me to do justice to in a statement like this, so I have selected a few emerging trends which the committee took particular note of.

6. the identified priorities from 2014 remain the same:

- Developing Resilience and Emotional Wellbeing
- Pupil Voice influencing decisions
- Positive Ethos and Culture of School
- Risky Behaviours including those related to use of modern technologies

Transition at KS2/3 has improved, but Careers Guidance and post-16 transition remain a priority - something we looked at in our last meeting.

7. The Key Stage One results are very similar to the previous questionnaire in 2014

- 17% have friends online that they don't know in real life
- Looking at items related to online safety, more boys than girls seem to be at risk.

8. The Key Stage Two results show continued improvements in the percentage who don't drink energy drinks (up from 50% in 2012 to 60% in 2014 to 69% in 2016), however the percentage who do not drink alcohol has decreased slightly (48% in 2012, 83% in 2014 and 75% on 2016).

9. There are positive trends around internet safety, with 8% responding they communicate online with people they don't know (13% in 2014). 30% say they are never supervised when using the internet (33% in 2014). 74% of pupils say they found school lessons on internet safety 'quite' or 'very' useful.

10. At Key Stage Four there has been a continued improvement in the situation regarding alcohol with a higher percentage reporting that they never drink alcohol (up from 31% in 2012 to 43% in 2014 and 46% in 2016), a decrease in the percentage who had been given alcohol by a friend in the week preceding the questionnaire (down from 10% in 2012 to 6% in 2014 to 4% in 2016), and a decrease in the percentage who had drunk alcohol in the week preceding the questionnaire (down from 31% in 2012 to 24% in 2014 to 20% in 2016).

11. There has been an improvement in some of the questions around bullying and negative behaviour with pupils now less likely to say they have experienced negative behaviour during lesson time in the month before the survey (23% in 2014, 17% in 2016) and the percentage experiencing negative behaviour outside school decreasing from 26% to 20%.

12. There are some positive trends around internet safety, with secondary pupils are less likely now to communicate with people they have met online and don't know in real life (22% in 2014, 18% in 2016).

13. There has been an apparent increase in the reporting of bullying or aggressive behaviours within dating relationships among Y10 pupils. 4% said they were experiencing aggression in their current relationship, while 22% said they had with a previous boy-/girl-friend; the figures for 2014 were 3% and 20%.
14. The survey results on “Closing the Gap” were illuminating, especially as this has featured on the committee's work programme on number of occasions over recent years and will be part of a report to our next meeting.
15. Compared to the rest of Year 6:
- Disadvantaged children are more likely to have lower wellbeing scores, be bullied and to worry about school and less likely to do 7+ hours of exercise a week.
  - SEN and pupils with disabilities are more likely to be bullied at school and worry about their health
16. Compared to the rest of Year 10:
- Disadvantaged children were less likely to intend to go to University and more likely to be bullied, skip breakfast, be absent from school, smoke and be a victim of crime/violence.
  - Armed forces pupils were more likely to have been offered drugs and to be sexually active
17. As an authority we should be proud of the high degree of professionalism shown in carrying out the survey. Scrutiny Members could see that there are clear and effective mechanisms for capitalising on the richness and relevance of the information to inform service planning and activity. I'm determined to see scrutiny make the utmost use the results to help shape the items in the work programme. I'll turn now to what that scrutiny business looks like in the short and medium term.

### **Upcoming Work**

18. We have settled on a packed work programme for the next eighteen months. At our next meeting we return to reviewing the approach being taken to improve the resilience of pupils, especially those at key Stage 2. this work to include:
- Profile of KS2 performance: eg geographically, by gender breakdown etc.
  - Understanding conclusions about the reason for relative under-performance in KS2.
  - Quality of information and data - How we identify lowest achieving pupils etc.
  - Effectiveness of support provided to schools by the LEA, approach, and capacity, targeted?
  - What strategies are being employed by governors, head teachers, schools, and how does the EA support this.

19. On a personal level, I am particularly looking forward to hearing at the next meeting about the Youth Justice Service. Clearly we will be interested in understanding how effective the current arrangements are in reducing offending and re-offending, but I intend to set the work in the wider context of youth justice and local position, covering the local Youth Justice plan, how young people are supported “at ground level” and an introduction to the proposed new service delivery model – it being acknowledged that the consultation on this will only just have ended. Ideally, we will also have a conversation with operational staff and with young person and/or their representatives.
  
20. Other work in the pipeline – which will now fall to the new committee membership after the elections - includes: Challenging the use of the pupil premium; Supporting Underperforming Schools - especially those in Special Measures; Roles and Responsibilities of Parent Governors; and Closing the Gap in Educational Achievement.
  
21. We will also plan ahead for future work on Hospital Admissions: especially mental health services. This work will focus on support for young people and managing cases in the community. The new committee will also start work on early intervention in schools in relation to substance misuse.

**JANET JEFFERSON**

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3 February 2017

Background Documents - Nil.