

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

18 July 2018

YOUNG PEOPLES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Local Safeguarding Board

1. We were fortunate to have Professor Nick Frost talk to us again on what was his last day as Chair of the Local Safeguarding Board, and also the end of the National Safeguarding Week. Nick is retiring after serving as the independent chair for four years.
2. He talked us through the high level, high profile cases currently under consideration by the board. His account told us much about how well local safeguarding arrangements work effectively to protect children and young people – particularly in locations external to county council business.
3. Nick was particularly complementary about the high standards practice and professionalism of staff working in this difficult and complex area.
4. We were pleased to hear Nick's positive responses to our questions about the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements some examples are :
 - Local safeguarding arrangements and information is effective in identifying and meeting the needs of the most vulnerable children?
 - Local agencies and organisations are working together effectively
 - There is strong leadership of local safeguarding arrangements for the authority and all partners
 - There has been great progress and improvements in the way the child is at the centre of local safeguarding arrangements.
 - One of the major challenges in this area for services, is sharing information and organisations – North Yorkshire has a record to be proud of. We noted that this is the case, for example, with regards to the scale, types and impact of Child Sexual Exploitation.

North Yorkshire's new chair for overseeing children's safeguarding is the former Children's Commissioner for England, Professor Maggie Atkinson. We asked Nick what advice he would leave her in terms of the main challenges ahead. One of these is undoubtedly new regulations for multi-agency safeguarding, which were included in

the Children and Social Work Act 2017. These were put in place by May 2018, with councils required to have their new arrangements up and running by September 2019. Under the plan the requirement for local areas to have boards with set memberships will be removed. It seems much is unclear about how these new arrangements will work in practice.

5. We would very much welcome the same constructive relationship with the new chair that we have been so fortunate to have with Nick.

Coast Opportunities

6. The North Yorkshire Coast Opportunity Area, covering the Scarborough, Whitby and Filey is making a real difference in improving outcomes for young people in education and in later life.
7. The achievements in each of the four priority areas of Early Years, Literacy, and Numeracy and improved Secondary Schools is impressive.

Early Years Provision

8. Early years policy, particularly relating to childcare has continued to be a focus for all recent governments with twin policy objectives – to give all children the best start in life and to enhance social mobility through support for working families. In addition to proven benefits of high quality early years provision in educational and overall lifetime outcomes, the provision of early education and childcare also links to government priorities for school readiness, economic growth, and tackling poverty.
9. Andrea Sedgwick, Head of Early Years, explained how our strategies and the alignment of initiatives and complimentary work streams ensure that work to support, enrich and secure these elements are well-co-ordinated, and that efficient and best-value services are delivered.
10. We heard how co-ordinated work across CYPS with health partners and the NYCC Stronger Communities team provides oversight of local needs and a clear role in shaping the lived experiences of children and families in all communities across the County.
11. The infrastructure support provided by Central services teams ensure that frontline staff are equipped and supported to deliver the highest quality services to children and families.
12. The committee was pleased to receive such a detailed and reassuring picture of local provision.

13. Members discussed the delivery of the 30 hours of free childcare programme of funded childcare each week in term time or 1140 funded hours stretched over the year. Recently, the Secretary of State for Education has asked what more can be done to improve 30 hours provision for all families, including parents who have special educational needs and disabilities.

14. The committee has agreed to add this to our work programme for September.

Looking ahead

15. Also in September we will look at the refresh of the Children looked After Strategy.

16. The Committee also wants to be involved in the re-commissioning of services as part of the Healthy Child Programme - the 0-19 healthy child programme contract coming to an end in 19/20. Rather than the issue being referred separately to the two relevant scrutiny committees - Scrutiny of Health and YP Scrutiny Committees – we are minded to look to appointing a joint member group for an informal engagement opportunity sometime in the autumn.

JANET JEFFERSON

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29 June 2018

Background Documents - Nil.