

North Yorkshire County Council

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2012 at 10.30 am at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present:- Cllr Keith Barnes in the Chair

County Councillors:- Andrew Backhouse Vice Chair , Executive Member Carl Les, John Batt, Tony Hall (substitute for David Blades), Jim Clark, Janet Sanderson, Tim Swales, Cliff Trotter, Caroline Seymour, Chris Pearson (substitute for Joe Plant), Graham Richards Church of England representative, Jos Huddleston Non-Conformist Church representative, Chris Head Secondary Teacher representative and Bjorn Risi Voluntary Sector representative.

Officers:- Andrew Terry Assistant Director, Children and Young People's Service (CYPS), Liz Burdett Head of 14-19 Strategy and Commissioning, Learning Youth and Skills CYPS, Michael Cotton Principal Educational Psychologist CYPS, Ann-Marie Lubanski Head of Self Directed Care and Transformation, Health and Adult Services (HAS), Lesley Ingleson Head of the Youth Justice Service, Stephanie Bratcher Corporate Development Officer (Scrutiny Support).

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors Joe Plant, Arthur Barker, Janet Jefferson, David Jeffels, Helena McGourran

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

100. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2012 having been printed and circulated be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

101. Public Questions

The Committee was advised that no notice had been received of any public questions or statements to be made at the meeting.

102. Executive Member's Oral Briefing

Executive Member County Councillor Carl Les commenced his briefing by responding to the questions forwarded in advance by the Chairman covering three key areas:-

- New Ofsted Inspection Arrangements.
- Paediatrics Services, Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.
- Careers Advice.

1. New Ofsted Inspection Arrangements

The Chairman had requested a brief outline of the new Ofsted Inspection arrangements for CYPS and asked whether there is a role for the Scrutiny Committee.

Members were advised that the new Ofsted inspections of 'local authority arrangements for the protection of children' will commence in May 2012, will be unannounced and each will last for two weeks. The inspection scope is much wider than Children's Social Care and starts at the point when a child is identified as being potentially at risk of harm by any service that works with children and young people. A significant focus of the new inspection framework is the quality and impact of 'early help' from not only Children's Social Care, which remains crucial, but of equal importance will be the effectiveness of all other local services in preventing an 'at risk' child from needing to enter the social care system at all.

With regard to whether there is a role for this Overview and Scrutiny Committee the Executive Member suggested that it may be helpful for the Chairman to talk this through with the Executive Members and the Corporate Director.

2. Paediatrics Services, Friarage Hospital, Northallerton

The Chairman asked if there are any implications for the Children and Young People's Service regarding the alternative options being considered for paediatric and consultant-led maternity services at the Friarage Hospital.

The Executive Member Cllr Les confirmed that arrangements for paediatric and obstetric services at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton are under review and the report of the National Clinical Advisory Team (NCAT) summarises the issues and possible options but are not a set of formal proposals. He advised the committee that there will be a period of engagement with the public and other stakeholders over the next few months – the County Council (including the Children and Young People's Service) will be a stakeholder for consultation purposes, as will the Children's Trust and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

The Committee were also advised that a Workshop is proposed for Tuesday 27 March which will be led by Dr Vicky Pleydell and colleagues from the Hambleton/Richmondshire/Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group and South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. This is not a formal consultation meeting but an opportunity for dialogue in which key partners concerned with ensuring good local services for children and young people can share information about the issues, their implications and potential practical responses. The Executive Member offered to feedback to the committee on the outcome of this Workshop.

3. Careers Advice

The Chairman asked how the changes in responsibility for careers advice will affect North Yorkshire County Council and whether the Local Authority has any duty to ensure careers advice happens?

Members were advised that the statutory requirement upon the LA to provide careers education for Year 7-11 is removed with effect from September 2012. There will be a new duty on schools to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance for pupils in years 9-11 with effect from September 2012. The new duty includes providing information on the full range of 16-18 education or training options, including apprenticeships and that careers guidance is presented in an impartial manner and promotes the best interests of the pupils to whom it is given.

Cllr Les explained that whilst the Local Authority will lose its responsibility to commission career services for young people, it does retain the duty to support and provide access to specialist advice for vulnerable young people. These responsibilities will be met by a range of services provided by the Children and Young People's Service. The LA does not have any responsibility to ensure careers advice happens in schools.

County Council and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) resources are unaffected by these changes, although the Area Based Grant which previously paid for this work

was reduced significantly mid-way through 2010 before being subsumed in a much reduced Early Intervention Grant in April 2011.

The Executive Member then took the opportunity to update members of the committee regarding actions arising from the previous minutes:-

(a) *Barnado's - Cutting them free campaign*. Cllr Les explained that there is a lot happening in the Children & Young People's Service and a decision has not been reached regarding whether NYCC is going to sign up.

(b) The question regarding Free School Meals registrations noted in the previous minutes will be taken to the Catering Board when it meets later this year.

(c) Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14 – Targets. These are currently being finalised and will be brought formally to Executive Members for endorsement.

The Chairman thanked the Executive Member for his detailed briefing and for updating members of the committee on the actions arising from the previous meeting.

103. Post 16 Transitions for Young People Aged 16-25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Services providing an update for the Committee on progress in relation to work around 'transitions' for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Andrew Terry, Assistant Director Children & Young People's Service, introduced the report by saying that making the transition from childhood, through adolescence and into adulthood is challenging for any young person. He added that young people with SEND can face significant additional barriers, including a lack of local post 16 or post 19 learning opportunities, limited access to paid work and changes to health and care provision, all of which contribute to the 'transition' being possibly both daunting and frustrating for young people, their parents and carers. It is important that NYCC are aware of the challenges that young people face as they make this transition, and that there are good mechanisms in place to involve young people in developing the right approaches to address their needs. The Flying High Group, a group of young adults who are currently making their way or who have recently been through the transition process, have provided an excellent sounding board for the Local Authority's (LA) work in this area and one of the members of the group produced the helpful paper circulated with this report and attached at Annex One. The paper sets out some of the challenges facing disabled young people through the transition period.

Liz Burdett, Head of 14-19 Strategy and Commissioning, CYPS, continued the briefing by advising Members of the increasing and changing cohort of children with complex needs - severe learning disabilities (SLD), profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) now accounting for 39% of children with a statement compared to 29% in January 2009. Trends indicate that ASD, now the most common primary need among pupils with a statement in North Yorkshire will continue to rise.

The Committee were then advised of the key issues and challenges facing both the LA and CYPS on the transitions agenda and were provided with a summary briefing on post 16 funding, the costs attached to Independent Specialist Providers (ISPs) - independent residential colleges which currently provided for significant numbers of North Yorkshire young people with SEND, and the development of Personalised Learning Pathways.

Anne Marie Lubanski Head of Self Directed Care and Transformation, Health and Adult Services (HAS) explained to members that young people and adults who come through transition are one of the key financial challenges for HAS, reflecting an unavoidable increase in demand, combined within an increasingly challenging financial climate. However, significant work and progress between CYPS and HAS on joint planning, is ensuring better predication of future costs to the Local Authority and managing the expectations of young people and families.

There will be significant costs attached to meeting the needs of the 40 young people who will transition back into the County from ISPs in July 2012 with an estimated total package cost of approximately £737,000 per annum.

Members raised a number of questions including direct contact from parents regarding the support they receive; the number of times the young people answer the same questions to many different people, and at what stage is the transition process begun.

Cllr Tony Hall, Chair of the Care and Independence Overview & Scrutiny Committee talked about the work his committee is undertaking on Autism, which is high on the national agenda. He considered Autism to be a big concern and a huge challenge for young people and adults, as well as incurring costs for out of County provision. Cllr Hall suggested that there is an opportunity for the Young People's and Care and Independence Overview & Scrutiny Committees to work together, adding that he felt the County Council was well placed to do something about this particularly challenging issue.

The Chairman thanked all the officers involved for their contribution to the briefing on Post 16 Transitions. He suggested that the Committee receive a progress report on the development of Personalised Learning Pathways across the County including how success will be measured.

Resolved –

That the information provided at the meeting be noted.

A further report is received on the development and progress towards embedding Personalised Learning Pathways across the County.

104. NYCC Children's Centre

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Service.

The report was introduced by Marc Mason, Strategic, Commissioning and Development Manager CYPS and provided an update for Members of the Committee on three particular areas:-

- Developments to make greater use of Children's Centres.
- Lessons learned from the recent Ofsted Inspections of Children's Centres and how these are being taken forward.
- Future funding arrangements for Children's Centres.

The officer began the briefing by reminding Members that the development of NYCC Children's Centres began in 2004 with eight phase I Centres including three Surestart Local Programmes in Colburn, Scarborough, Selby and North Craven. These were mainstreamed in 2008, alongside the phase II development of a further twenty-two centres. The Authority's portfolio of thirty-seven Centres was completed in

2009 by the opening of the final seven phase III centres. The 'core offer' of services was developed in partnership between NYCC Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) and with partner agencies. The Centres have seen a year on year growth which is measured on user attendances.

The Committee were advised that developments to make greater use of Children's Centres are in line with the new Common Purpose for Children's Centres that will be introduced nationally in September and will be the basis for future Ofsted Inspections. A number of initiatives have contributed to ensuring that North Yorkshire Children's Centres are recognised as a key resource within local communities and include developmental and outreach work undertaken with community partners; the expansion of the 2 year old provision has increased outreach to parents not previously engaging with services; and Children's Centres are now seen by professionals as the hub in each locality and the first point of reference for family support referrals, advice, guidance and signposting.

Of particular interest to Members of the Committee was the enhanced working agreement with midwives and health visitors through the Healthy Child Programme to identify and jointly support all new parents – particularly the most vulnerable, ensuring that more families in greatest need receive timely and well co-ordinated provision.

The recent Ofsted Inspections of Children's Centres robustly looked at the quality and effectiveness and of the impact and outcomes of all children's services for under fives and their families. With a greater requirement to demonstrate joint target-setting and performance monitoring of services a review of the Children's Centre Performance Framework has been undertaken. Performance clinics have been introduced on a quarterly basis with performance targets being set and monitored through the Children's Centre Services Manager's supervision and appraisal processes. Work is also being undertaken with partners to respond to the challenge of quantifying achievement pathways.

Members asked how the Children's Centres are selected and were advised that Ofsted are provided with a list and they chose.

Members also raised questions regarding developing Children's Centres in rural areas with the use of modern IT or using Health Centres. The lack of transport was also raised as a reason why some families do not attend Children's Centres and discussion took place around whether there was an opportunity to ask for volunteers to provide transport to Children's Centres.

Members were advised that the funding arrangements for North Yorkshire's Children's Centres have been maintained and all buildings and outreach sites have also been maintained. Unlike some Local Authorities, the County Council has not reduced the number of Children's Centres.

The 'Payment by Results' funding arrangements proposed by the Department for Education are still to be determined nationally. North Yorkshire was successful in a bid to undertake a trial of the 'Payment by Results' scheme and NYCC is currently working in conjunction with Easting Riding Council on this work

The chairman thanked the officer for his detailed and interesting briefing adding that at a later date the Committee would be interested to learn more about the outcome of the 'Payment by Results' scheme.

Resolved –

That the information provided at the meeting be noted.

105. Building Engagement, Building Futures: 16-24 year olds in Education, Training and Work

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Service.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update for the Committee on the Government's strategy to maximise the participation of 16-24 year olds in education, training and work ('Building Engagement, Building Futures'), including developments in 14-19 vocational education, and to highlight some of the implications and considerations for the Local Authority in responding to the strategy. Attached is a briefing paper which highlights the key strands of the strategy.

Liz Burdett, Head of 14-19 Strategy and Commissioning CYPS introduced the report by advising the Committee of the current levels of youth unemployment in North Yorkshire as at February 2012. There are 462 young people aged 16 to 18 who are not in education employment or training (NEET) and the education, employment or training status of an additional 546 young was 'unknown' – age range 16 – 24.

Members were provided with an overview of the government's strategy 'Building Engagement, Building Futures' from a local perspective, and a brief run through the five key strategic priorities.

There is a strong emphasis on local activity and the co-ordination of services at a local level to deliver for young people. Local Authority responsibilities include embracing new opportunities and providing targeted, personalised support to young people who are NEET or at risk of being NEET. Robust links with employers will be a key factor for the LA and working with employers (Local Enterprise Partnerships) and the National Apprenticeship Service for apprenticeships including Job Centre Plus for the post 18 transition.

A major element of the approach for 16-24 will be apprenticeships and a great deal of work has been undertaken recently to co-ordinate and join up activities around apprenticeships in the LA.

Questions from Members of the Committee focussed around several areas and in particular the County Council's ability to track participation as the role and responsibilities have changed; the type of support offered and provided to employers; the support available for pre 16 families; and whether the Local Authority has any responsibility to look for/find more apprenticeships.

In response to the questions raised Liz Burdett advised the Members that the tracking of young people going through the system is going to be difficult and Officers will have to work hard to fulfil this requirement; training is provided for employers and this may be an area to look at and see how working together could be improved; that work is on going to identify and support troubled families; the LA does not have responsibility to find more apprenticeships but good links with employers will be a key factor.

Members enquired about the wage paid to apprentices but as this information was not to hand they were advised that this information would be circulated following the meeting.

Resolved –

That the information provided at the meeting is noted.

That information regarding the national minimum wage paid to apprentices is obtained and circulated to Members of the Committee

106. Youth Justice Service

Considered –

The report of the Head of the Youth Justice Service.

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update covering three key areas:

- Youth Justice Service (YJS) funding allocation 2012/13.
- Developments in respect of young people in custody and proposals aimed at reducing numbers.
- Performance against key outcome measures.

Lesley Ingleson, Head of the Youth Justice Service introduced the report and advised Members on how the YJS receives its funding: the Youth Justice Grant, Partner Organisations (NYCC, Police, Health and Probation) and temporary funding from the Performance Reward Grant (PRG).

On the 1st March the Youth Justice Board (YJB) announced an indicative grant of £1,122,303 which represents 5.6% reduction (£62,849). Funding from Partner Organisations has still to be confirmed for 2012/13 but indications are that this will be at the same level as the current year. Members also noted that 13% of the YJB grant comes from the Home Office, and it is intended that from 2013/14 this element will go directly to the Police and Crime Commissioners. In preparation for this and as a transitional year, this Home Office element of the YJB grant in 2012/13 has been split between Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) and Police Authorities with an expectation that YOTs will seek to influence the way in which it is intended to allocate the funding. For North Yorkshire this has meant that £61,490 has transferred across to the Police Authority, representing 5.5% of the overall of the YJS grant.

With regard to young people remanded into the secure estate Members were informed of a number of proposals arising from the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Bill - A single 'Remand Order' for Youths to be applied to 12/17 year olds; that local authorities assume the costs of all secure remands and that there is an 'associated transfer of funding' to local authorities to cover some of these costs; new restrictions on the use of secure remand, with an expectation that more complex and challenging young people will be managed in the community pending trial or sentence and that all young people subject to the new Remand Order for Youth will acquire 'looked after' status. Members noted that the anticipated legislation will be implemented in November this year with full year costs and associated transfer of funding transferred to local authorities from April 2013.

The officer highlighted the need to reduce the number of secure remands, not just because of financial and resource implications arising from the LASPO Bill, but because research evidences that custody should be reserved only for young people who have committed serious violent crimes (CSC). On average 37% of young people in North Yorkshire are looked after immediately prior to entering the secure estate, whilst around 76% have had previous CSC involvement.

Members were advised that the Government's focus in terms of youth justice performance is to reduce three key aspects: first time entrants to the criminal justice system; proven re-offending rates and the use of custody. Performance against the First Time Entrants indicator remains strong and the reduction in numbers of first time entrants has been maintained. This is evidenced by the most recent data

available which covers the period October 2010 to September 2011 and shows a reduction in FTEs of 14.2% compared to the same period 12 months earlier.

The Committee also noted the changes made by the Ministry of Justice in relation to the way that re-offending is calculated as well as the source from which data is pulled, and the new measure which represents the use of custody per 1000 of the 10-17 year old population.

The Chairman thanked the officer for their concise but very informative briefing.

Resolved –

That the information provided at the meeting is noted.

107. Work Programme

Considered –

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader and the draft Work Programme schedule.

The Chairman introduced the report and ran briefly through each of the items covered by the Mid-Cycle Briefing in February and asked the Committee if there were any questions.

Cllr Jim Clark advised the meeting of the public engagement events planned to discuss the future sustainability of children's and maternity services at the Friarage Hospital and suggested that the dates are circulated to all members of the committee.

Cllr Tony Hall commented that Members of the Committee have requested a briefing on the Pupil Referral Service. As Chairman of the Hambleton and Richmond PRS Management Board he suggested that it may be helpful to have a look around the Unit in Northallerton and that the Head Teacher would be happy to arrange something. He suggested it would be sensible to keep the numbers small and any requests should be channelled through the Head Teacher.

The Chairman confirmed that the areas mentioned at the last meeting had been added to Work Programme and asked if there were any other areas they wished included. Mention was made about under age drinking, and following discussions Cllr Tony Hall confirmed that this is an area that is being covered on the Care and Independence Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme.

The Chairman thanked Members for their contribution at today's meeting, reminded everyone of the next meeting on the 15th June and duly closed the meeting.

Resolved –

That the report provided at the meeting is noted and the Work Programme Schedule is agreed.

The meeting concluded at 12:45pm

SB/ALJ