

North Yorkshire County Council

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2013 at 10.30 am at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present:- County Councillor Elizabeth Shields in the chair

County Councillors: Joe Plant (Vice Chairman), Derek Bastiman, David Jeffels, Janet Jefferson (Group Spokesperson), Anne Jones, Cliff Lunn, Tim Swales, Cliff Trotter, Tony Randerson (as substitute for John Ritchie), Janet Sanderson (as substitute for Liz Casling)

Co-opted members: Graham Richards (Church of England Representative), Paul Birkenshaw (Secondary Teacher representative as substitute for Chris Head)

Also in attendance:

County Councillor Tony Hall (Executive Member)

Officers: Peter Dwyer (Corporate Director Children and Young Peoples Service), Katharine Bruce (Adviser, Quality & Improvement), Simon Moss (Performance and Change Manager Prevention & Commissioning), Carolyn Bird (Assistant Director Prevention and Commissioning), Sue Barker (Interim Assistant Director Children's Social Care), Julie Firth (Head of Effective Practice Quality Assurance Children's Social Care), Bryon Hunter (Scrutiny Team Leader), Lorraine Laverton (Corporate Development Officer – Scrutiny Support)

Apologies for absence

County Councillors: Arthur Barker, Elizabeth Casling and John Ritchie.

Co-opted members: Jos Huddleston (Non-Conformist Church representative), Rebecca Newman (Parent Governor representative), Michael Clarkson (Primary Teacher representative), Chris Head (Secondary Teacher representative), Bjorn Risi (Voluntary Sector representative)

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed new and returning Members to the first meeting of the Committee following the County Councillor elections. County Councillor Shields introduced herself not only as a new chairman of the Committee but also new to the County Council.

1. Minutes

Councillor Shields asked those members who were present at the meeting on the 25 January 2013 if the minutes were a true representation of that meeting. Members agreed.

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2013 having been printed and circulated be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. Public Questions

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

3. Overview and Scrutiny at North Yorkshire County Council

The Corporate Development Officer; Lorraine Laverton referred the Committee to a handout that had been tabled that:

- gave a brief description of overview and scrutiny at North Yorkshire County Council.
- Advised Members of the portfolios of the Executive Members
- Highlighted some of the in – depth reviews undertaken by the previous Committee
- Provided information on scrutiny guidance available
- Offered one to one support for new Members regarding overview and scrutiny

Resolved –

That the content of the handout and the information provided at the meeting is noted

4. Children and Young People's Service Directorate:-

The Corporate Director for Children and Young Peoples Service acknowledged the important role of overview and scrutiny and looked forward to being held to account by the Committee.

Mr Dwyer went on to outline 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.

He advised Members of a new approach to work more collaboratively with schools with the development of a North Yorkshire Commission for school improvement.

He recognised the talents of those people working within CYPS and determined to use that talent to narrow the gap on attainment for rural and coastal schools.

He referred to a recent review of services for Special Educational Needs and a need to revisit the findings. He saw this as an opportunity to encourage further inclusive education with the development and appropriate use of enhanced mainstream and more specialist provision..

The Committee was also advised of the ambition to safely 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 more integrated preventative services and the new Developing Stronger Families programme.

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”. He encouraged the Committee to read the CYPS; Children and Young People’s Plan that runs until 2014.

Resolved –

To note the information in the oral report and to request updates on the areas highlighted by the Corporate Director within future progress reports.

5. Non Statutory Co-optees

The Chairman asked the Committee to consider the report of the Scrutiny Team Leader on non-statutory co-opted representation on the Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report gave 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.

Members 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.

Resolved –

The Committee resolved to recommend option (a) to the County Council:

- (a) To continue existing arrangements for non – statutory co-optees (2 voluntary sector and 1 Primary and 1 Secondary school teacher representative).

6. Every Child Matters- Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire (ECM-HRBQ) Survey 2012

The report on the Every Child Matters - Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire Survey 2012 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 the Committee 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 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 Members would expect that this information is used to improve outcomes. The Committee requested a feedback report in 12 months time that will show where and how the information has been used.

Simon Moss took Members through the detail of the report using a ‘typical day in the life of’ to illustrate the results of the survey. This took the Committee through a typical

day from what children and young people were having for breakfast, how they travelled to school, and their experiences of school through to what they did on an evening. Members found it very helpful to 'make the results of the survey real'.

Comments from Members included:

- It is essential that the C&YPS take on board the findings of the survey and use them to continually improve the services it provides.
- The importance of challenging the robustness of the data
- Members were pleased to see that the report is shared widely with schools and relevant bodies but noted that it is not currently disseminated to church bodies. Officers assured the Committee that this would be rectified and sent out to Church bodies for this and future surveys.

Resolved –

The Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the information in this report and request a feedback report in the summer of 2014.

7. Early Help and Child Protection

The Chairman introduced the presentations and asked members to note that they provided a 'whistle stop tour' of early help and child protection but that it would be possible to ask for more detailed reports to come back to the Committee as appropriate.

Carolyn Bird Assistant Director prevention and Commissioning advised the Committee that it is not about "early years" moreover it is 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. Members agreed that this requires brave leadership to stay committed!

The Committee were informed 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)**, Members 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

The Committee were also told 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 actively participate 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

Members were impressed with the quality of work and the level of integration that had been possible in each area.

8. The School Nursing Service in North Yorkshire

The Chairman introduced the report of the Member Task Group that had been part of the previous Committee. County Councillor Andrew Backhouse is the only remaining Committee member from the Task Group and he was not present. Members were happy to sign it off and pass it to the Executive Member to take forward.

Members noted that public health services for children passed to the County Council in April 2013 and requested an update on progress towards the model for health visiting to provide continuity of services from 0 – 19.

Resolved –

The Committee:

- a. noted the information in the Task Group Report and passed it to the Executive Member County Councillor Tony Hall to take forward.
- b. Requested an update report on public health services for children in the summer 2014.

9. Work Programme

Lorraine Laverton, Corporate Development Officer introduced the report and asked the Committee to consider the items on the work programme that had been put forward by the previous committee. Members agreed to continue with the work programme as it was identified and to consider the focus of the in-depth scrutiny review in time for the next meeting. Members also agreed that the item on 'e safety' should also include information on how 'e-safety' is monitored in schools.

Resolved –

- a. Note the information in this report.
- b. Amend the item on e - safety to include how this is monitored in schools

The meeting concluded at 12:50

LL/ALJ