

North Yorkshire County Council

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2013 at County Hall, Northallerton at 10.30 am.

Present:- County Councillor Elizabeth Shields in the chair

County Councillors: Val Arnold, David Jeffels, Janet Jefferson (Group Spokesperson), Anne Jones, Cliff Lunn, John Ritchie (Group Spokesperson), Janet Sanderson, Tim Swales, Cliff Trotter

Co-opted members: Michael Clarkson (Primary Teacher representative), Graham Richards (Church of England Representative), Paul Birkenshaw (Secondary Teacher representative as substitute for Chris Head), Jon Carling (Voluntary Sector Representative)

Also in attendance: County Councillor Arthur Barker (Executive Member)

Officers: Peter Dwyer (Corporate Director Children and Young Peoples Service), Andrew Terry (Assistant Director Access and Inclusion), Michael Cotton (SEND Implementation Manager), Michelle Allison (Head of SEN), Anton Hodge Assistant Director - Strategic Resources, Finance and Management Support (CYPS), Lincoln Sargeant (Director of Public Health), Lorraine Laverton (Corporate Development Officer – Scrutiny Support)

Apologies for absence

County Councillors: Tony Hall, Derek Bastiman, Joe Plant.

Co-opted members: Chris Head (Secondary Teacher representative), Kenneth Allinson (Voluntary Sector representative)

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

10. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2013 having been printed and circulated be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

11. Appointment of Co-opted Members

The Corporate Development Officer; Lorraine Laverton informed the Committee that Mr Kenneth Allinson and Mr Jon Carling had been nominated by the voluntary sector to be their representatives on the Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee was asked to agree to their appointment.

Members were also advised that; no nominations had been received for the vacant co-opted place for Parent Governor and that the second place is also now vacant.

The co-opted places for representatives from the Non conformist Church and the Roman Catholic Church also remain vacant

Resolved –

The Committee agreed to the appointment of Mr Kenneth Allinson and Mr Jon Carling onto the Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee as co-opted members representing the voluntary sector.

12. Public Questions

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

13. Executive Member's Oral Briefing

County Councillor Arthur Barker updated Members on:

- **Attainment:** on the whole North Yorkshire schools are judged as good or very good but Cllr Barker accepted that further work needed to be done around key stage 2. He 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.

Mr Dwyer informed the Committee that work was ongoing on the Children and Young People's Plan to create a sharper document focused on key priorities and that it would be helpful to bring the draft to the attention of the Committee. Mr Dwyer suggested the Committee might like to receive a report on the progress of the newly developed North Yorkshire Commission for School Improvement.

Questions and comments from the Committee included:

- The provision of school places for the County Council's Looked After Children
- The impact of new residential developments and the Local Development Framework (LDF)
- Whether any new schools would be academies
- The impact of the Community Infrastructure Levy
- Funding allocation for building new schools

Councillor Barker and Mr Dwyer provided the following responses:

- There is no greater priority than ensuring the education of the County Council's Looked After Children. It is therefore pleasing to report that 23 of our Looked After Children have gone on to university. Through the NYCC 'staying put' initiative these young people have the stability of returning home to their foster homes during holidays from university. Within the County there is a named teacher within each school who is responsible for Looked After Children. There is also to be a doubling of the pupil premium for Looked After Children. This will see £1900 for each Looked After Child place. We shall be challenging our head teachers to see where this funding is to be used for the benefit of our Looked After Children.

- It was difficult to ascertain the effect of the LDF as they are at different stages of development.
- The answer to increasing school places is not always to open a new school but where a new school is agreed to be the way forward it would be an Academy.
- Councillor Barker offered to come back with a response around the impact of the Community Infrastructure Levy
- There is no increased funding available to build new schools.

Resolved –

The Committee noted the information in the report and resolved to schedule reports into the work programme on:

- The Children and Young People's Plan
- The North Yorkshire Commission for School Improvement

14. The Children and Families Bill - Developments in Special Educational Needs – Update on Preparation for Implementation

Considered –

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

Mr Terry reported on progress in preparations for the implementation of the requirements in Part 3 of the Children and Families Bill which relates to Special Educational Needs (SEN).

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.

The Committee received a presentation from Michael Cotton that described to Members how the changes would see plans for children and young people that were from birth to adulthood, based on their aspirations and about outcomes not services, that will see provision that is co-ordinated and gives more choice and control to the children and young people whilst preparing them for adulthood.

Mr Cotton went on to advise the Committee that a published Local Offer **must** include information about : education, health and care provision for children & young people with SEN, leisure and sports, travel arrangements, post-16 education, training, employment; universal, targeted and specialist and how to access them as well as in county and out of county provision.

Members were updated on what the County Council had achieved so far. This included:

- Created a single specialist support service; working towards a single 0-25 SEND service; and on commissioning therapy services directly
- Negotiating a single Direct Payment Service for education, children's and adult's social care and health
- Developing a software system to capture information and control access to it
- Designing an education-based Resource Allocation System in preparation for Personal budgets

- Working with Early Years Settings, Schools, Colleges, health and social care, voluntary sector, parents and young people to develop the Local Offer
- Preparing for adulthood by arranging 5 themed workshops for families and professionals led by PfA with local input;
- now have 25 young adults with personalised learning pathways, saving LA over £1m in three years

Members were impressed with the enthusiasm shown by officers in preparing for this biggest change in Special Educational needs in 30 years. The Committee commented that it was encouraging to see that the County Council's Special Schools had a key involvement in the developments. Members also queried how keen parents were to take up the offer of Direct Payments. Mr Terry replied that out of approximately 450 families receiving support from the Disabled Children's Service approximately a quarter received a partial or full Direct Payment. At least initially the number requesting an education Direct Payment was unlikely to exceed that number. Officers assured the Committee that support and advice would be provided for families and that the plans would be developed closely with the families.

Resolved –

That progress in preparations for the implementation of the requirements in Part 3 of the Children and Families Bill be noted.

15. School Funding

Considered –

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

This report includes the Consultation Paper on changes to school funding which has been considered by schools during September and October.

Members 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.

Resolved –

The Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the information in the report.

16. Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire 2013

Considered –

The report of the Director of Public Health.

Dr Lincoln Sargeant gave a presentation to the Committee that outlined what public health is all about. It's about focussing on needs and assets of communities, the wider environment we live in and the opportunities we are offered, prevention rather than cure, protecting us all from infections and environmental risks, getting the most out of the money we spend on health and social care, using intelligence to inform decisions, everyone working together and about being outcomes focussed

Dr Sargeant went on to advise the Committee of key health facts about North Yorkshire including, inequalities in life expectancy and premature mortality across the County and the ageing population of the county.

Members were keen to see preventative work undertaken in partnership with schools as they believe that having a positive influence on children may prevent health issues in adult and later life whilst also encouraging the children to positively influence their own families. A question was raised on developments with the school nursing service as the Committee was interested to see how the changes would be implemented regarding the 0 – 19 age group. A progress report is scheduled into the Committee's work programme for summer 2014.

Resolved –

The Committee resolved to support the Director's recommendations:

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 can 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.

17. Children and Young People's Contributions to the Health and Well Being 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.

Resolved –

The Committee noted the information in the report and the Children's Trust Board report attached as Annex A.

18. Work Programme

The Committee considered 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.

The Committee also agreed to the inclusion of an update presentation on the 'Developing Stronger Families' programme

Resolved –

The Committee:

- (a) Noted the information in this report.
- (b) Agreed the focus of the in depth scrutiny review as online safety and the Members of the Task Group as County Councillors Joe Plant, Val Arnold, David Jeffels, Janet Sanderson and co-opted member Graham Richards
- (c) Agreed to add reports to the work programme on: The Children and Young People's Plan, The North Yorkshire Commission for School Improvement and Developing Stronger Families programme

The meeting concluded at 1:00pm

LL/ALJ