

North Yorkshire County Council

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2014 at 10.30 am at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present:- County Councillor Elizabeth Shields in the chair

County Councillors Val Arnold, Derek Bastiman, David Jeffels, Anne Jones, Cliff Lunn, Joe Plant, John Ritchie, Janet Sanderson, Tim Swales, Cliff Trotter, Graham Richards (Church of England representative), Mr Paul Bircumshaw (Secondary Teacher representative), Mr Michael Clarkson (Primary Teacher representative), Jon Carling (Voluntary Sector representative)

In attendance: Executive Members C Cllrs Arthur Barker, Tony Hall and Don Mackenzie
C Cllr Helen Grant, Richmondshire District Cllr Paul Cullen, Mr Kevin Whitwell

Officers:- Pete Dwyer Corporate Director Children and Young Peoples Service, Gary Fielding Corporate Director Strategic Resources, Anton Hodge Assistant Director Strategic Resources, Louise Dunn Principal Youth Support Service Officer, Claire Robinson Health Improvement Manager, Katie Needham Public Health Consultant, Suzanne Firth Strategic Planning Manager, Lorraine Laverton Corporate Development Officer (Scrutiny Support).

Apologies for absence were received from C Cllr Janet Jefferson

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

27. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2014 having been printed and circulated be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Chairman secured the agreement of the Committee to amend the running order of the agenda. Items marked as agenda items 7 and 8 would now become agenda items 5 and 6. Items marked as agenda items 5 and 6 would now become agenda items 7 and 8. The rest of the agenda would remain unchanged.

28. Public Questions

The Committee was advised that no notice had been received of any public questions or statements to be made at the meeting. However, County Councillor Helen Grant had a question on pupil place planning and the Chairman advised the Committee that the question would be dealt with at the appropriate point in the agenda.

29. Executive Members Oral Briefing

The Executive Member highlighted reports that were to be presented to the Executive on changes to school organisation arrangements that would allow individual schools to expand by up to 2 years. Cllr Barker went on to say that schools were being encouraged to consult on any proposed changes. Following a question from the Committee Cllr Barker clarified that this was about pre school provision and younger start at secondary school and not post 16 places.

30. 2020 North Yorkshire Programme Update

Considered -

The oral report of the Corporate Director - Strategic Resources updating Members on the 2020 North Yorkshire Programme.

Mr Fielding guided Members through a presentation that was tabled. A copy of the presentation is held in the minute book.

The presentation outlined:

- the aims of the 2020 North Yorkshire programme:
 - Focus on clear prioritisation
 - Focus on outcomes
 - Play to our strengths
 - Deliver financial savings
- The governance and management structures
- The Cross cutting themes
 - Stronger communities
 - Partnership working and alternative delivery models
 - Customer
 - Commercial focus
 - Property
 - Organisational development

Mr Fielding elaborated that the outcome of the 2020 programme would see a smaller more agile Council, with fewer staff working smartly to achieve greater productivity. It will be a Council that undertakes more of its work through commissioning and greater involvement of community and voluntary groups whilst providing leadership on key issues.

Comments and questions from the Committee included:

- With the increased call on the goodwill of local communities Members were concerned that initial support might be seen but that in the longer term support may dwindle and this would have to be taken into account.
- The effect of many areas in North Yorkshire being of a rural nature means that communities may be spread over large areas and this will have an effect on delivery
- A member asked for reassurance that safeguarding would remain a priority even if services are being provided differently in each area
- The need for regular updates on the programme and the effects on children and young people's services

Mr Fielding assured members that the risk of overloading local communities has been recognised but that this should be weighed against the positives of bespoke local services delivering better outcomes for local people. Mr Fielding went on to say that each locality will have to be looked at individually and that both transitional and

residual support would be provided as required. He added that a programme of consultation was being drawn up.

Mr Dwyer responded to the question around safeguarding by stating there will be no reduction in social workers in the safeguarding preventative services review.

Resolved -

That the report be noted and that a regular agenda item 'Update on 2020 North Yorkshire' be included for each Committee meeting.

31. Commissioning of the 5-19 Healthy Child Programme (HCP)

Considered -

The report of the Director of Public Health updating Members on the Healthy Child Programme and the commissioning arrangements.

Katie Needham advised the Committee that the Healthy Child programme was about looking at what children and young people need and commissioning services appropriate to that need.

Questions and comments from the Committee included:

- Querying whether there were sufficient team resources available.
- Questioning the input of children and young people, including the Young Peoples' Council and Youth Council and asking for assurances that age appropriate consultation methods were used.
- Members commented that it was good to see Children and Young Peoples' Service (CYPS) playing a big part in public health.
- A member queried what local involvement there would be as it could be different providers delivering services in different areas.

Responses from officers assured the Committee:

- That the team was sufficient and that a real benefit had been the secondment of an officer from CYPS.
- That age appropriate workshops had been held to make sure that children and young people had the opportunity to influence the development of the programme.
- That providers would be expected to have due regard to their settings and would ensure appropriate liaison was undertaken with relevant groups.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

32. Draft North Yorkshire Alcohol Strategy

Considered -

The report of the Director of Public Health updating Members on the Draft North Yorkshire Alcohol Strategy and asking Members to participate and encourage others to participate in the engagement process.

Officers outlined that the strategy aims to galvanise partners within North Yorkshire to collectively reduce harm from alcohol.

A Member queried whether it was possible to deter parents from supplying alcohol to their children and if there was an age range of children that might be more receptive to information. Officers elaborated that part of the work being undertaken was to work with families and to deliver a consistent message across all avenues such as through GP surgeries and pharmacies. They went on to say that there were opportunities across the curriculum to allow discussion and the provision of age appropriate information.

Mr Dwyer, the Corporate Director for CYPS welcomed the opportunity for CYPS and public health to work together and this was a good example of a joined up piece of work. He hoped that the outcome indicators would include something about children and young people affected by the drinking of others. Ms Needham agreed it was important and that would be included

The representative from the voluntary sector on the Committee asked how the voluntary sector might get involved in supporting the consultation process. Officers replied that a consultation package was currently being developed and part of that exercise was to ensure that the consultation reached all relevant people.

The Executive Member Cllr Tony Hall welcomed the focus on minimising harm from alcohol as he felt too often in the past the focus had been on drug related issues.

Members asked that an update report be scheduled into the Committee work programme.

Resolved -

That the report be noted and that an update report be scheduled into the Committee work programme

33. Children and Young People's Plan

Considered -

The presentation of the Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service updating Members on the Children and Young People's Plan.

Mr Dwyer stressed to the Committee that the development of the Children and Young Peoples Plan included a determination to ensure that the document was concise but that did not mean it would be superficial. He anticipated that the draft version of the Plan would be available in the early summer.

A Councillor stressed that she was delighted that the Plan would include the importance of education, particularly for the County Council's Looked After Children and Young People. She went on to say that it was incumbent on the Council to ensure that the Looked After Children had the best start in life that the County Council could give them.

Mr Dwyer agreed with the comments around Looked After Children and assured members that positive outcomes for the County Council's Looked After Children was always a priority.

Resolved -

That the presentation be noted.

34. School Organisation Arrangements

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service briefing Members on the need for additional primary pupil places up to September 2014 and the actions being taken to meet this demand.

At this point in the meeting the Chairman asked Cllr Helen Grant to put forward her question regarding pupil place planning. Cllr Grant referred to the report which stated that there was to be 'significant planned expansion around (Catterick) Garrison' and that this included an 'officer working group to look at how temporary increases in demand for primary places and impact on secondary places can best be managed'. Cllr Grant went on to stress the importance of involving the local member in cases such as this and would be grateful if she could be involved in any discussion.

Suzanne Firth the Strategic Planning Manager for CYPS welcomed the involvement of the local member and assured Cllr Grant that she would get in touch to arrange a briefing and discussion.

Members went on to discuss a range of schools in their local areas and in each case Members were reassured that officers would work with the schools and local members to ensure that appropriate provision was available.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

35. Work Programme

Considered –

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader inviting comments from Members on the content of the Committee's programme of work scheduled for future meetings.

The Chairman asked if Members had any additions, comments or changes to make on the Work Programme.

Members agreed that; the draft report of the task group on online safety of children and young people would be presented to the June 2014 meeting of the Committee; a regular agenda item would be included on the work programme updating the Committee on the 2020 North Yorkshire programme and an update report on outcomes from the Alcohol Strategy relevant to this Committee would be scheduled at an appropriate time.

Resolved –

- That the content of the Work Programme report and the Work Programme Schedule are noted.
- That the draft report on Online Safety of Children and Young people be presented to the June 2014 meeting of the Committee
- That a regular agenda item would be included on the work programme updating the Committee on the 2020 North Yorkshire programme
- That an update report on outcomes from the Alcohol Strategy relevant to this Committee would be scheduled at an appropriate time.

The meeting concluded at 12:45pm

LL/JR