

North Yorkshire County Council

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6 September 2019

Work Programme

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report asks Members to consider the Committee's work programme for 2019/20, taking into account the outcome of discussions on previous agenda items and any other developments taking place across the county.
- 1.2 The work programme schedule is attached at Appendix 1.

2.0 Scheduled Committee dates/Mid-Cycle Briefing dates

2.1 Committee Meetings

- Friday 6 December 2019 at 10am
- Friday 28 February 2020 at 10am

2.2 Mid Cycle Briefing Dates

- Friday 18 October 2019. This date will be changed. Provisionally the morning of the 1 November 2019 (before the planned workshop outlined below)
- Friday 17 January 2020
- Friday 3 April 2020

- 2.3 It is expected that the new calendar of meetings will be available for the November council meeting.

3.0 Elective Home Education

- 3.1 Elective Home Education (EHE) is the term used by the Department for Education (DfE) to describe parents' decisions to provide education for their children at home instead of sending them to school. This is different to home tuition or education provided by a local authority other than at a school.
- 3.2 Last year, the committee's reviewed of the prevalence and experience of North Yorkshire children of compulsory school age whose parents opt to educate their child at home.
- 3.3 Guidance was published earlier this year, reflecting legal advice received by the Government indicating that local authorities' powers in relation to home education often go further than was previously thought, Further guidance is expected soon

3.4 Members are reminded that a workshop for all the committee membership will be held on Friday 1 November 2019 at 1pm at County Hall, Northallerton.

4.0 Small Schools: Closures

4.1 During your discussion on schools budgets at the last meeting members talked about the broader challenges facing schools, especially those in rural areas.

4.2 Comments converged on the number of small schools, especially those in predominantly rural areas, which were finding it difficult to manage the financial pressures. A discussion followed about the numbers of small schools that may have no alternative but to consider closure – rather than, for example, confederation or collaborative arrangements. An undertaking was given that the committee would look at this; however, mindful of the complexity and sensitivity of the topic, no commitment was entered into at this early stage about scope and approach.

4.3 The chairman has decided to discuss this at the group spokespersons Mid-Cycle Briefing on 17 January 2020. To better understand this situation, she has asked for a light touch look back at cases over, say, the last 18-24 months of local authority maintained schools which had proceeded to full closure rather than achieve academy status.

5.0 Teacher Recruitment: the Rural Challenge

5.1 This time spent on understanding the underlying causes in relation to closure of small schools will inform the intended work on the challenges recruiting staff – not just teaching staff - to schools in rural areas. Some of the issues members have identified in recent meetings may be common to both topics:

- What does rural in this context mean: labelling everything non-urban as rural overlooks the complexity of rural communities and different environment (small might not mean rural);
- Changing population concentrations, in-migration and out-migration and demographic profile (NY has an ageing population);
- Exercise of parental choice;
- The mix of attractive and unattractive features in the locale;
- The economic base of the areas and changes in economic activity. The reliance on a limited number of industries;
- The level of diversity of personnel;
- Average class size;
- The smaller numbers of students in rural schools can also affect school stability from one year to the next. When students are few, the school can change substantially from one year to the next in ways that affect the work of teaching staff;
- Schools and their financial difficulties - decline in numbers causes a significant percentage drop in the schools budget;

- Typically staff are more experienced (therefore more expensive) and may be less likely to leave than in larger and non-rural schools;
- Cost of providing cover for teachers who need training can be high;
- Difficulties in negotiating good purchasing deals for small quantities of goods and services;
- Budgets of small schools more affected by volatility in pupil numbers;
- Mixed age classes – teaching training may not be designed to prepare teachers for this;
- Recruitment to remote rural locations with limited and expensive housing;
- Technological innovation;
- Job satisfaction and autonomy;
- Capacity of support services and adequacy of professional support networks;
- Options for personnel to specialise are likely to be more limited;

5.2 This item is programmed for the February scrutiny committee meeting. The committee is invited to discuss the above in order that group spokespersons at their next meeting can plan and then settle upon a method and approach.

6.0 Young People with additional needs transitioning to Adulthood

6.1 The total number of young people with a learning disability aged 14-18 in North Yorkshire is approximately 500. On average just over 100 young people will "move" from Children's Services to Adult Social Care, of whom a third will have an array of complex needs.

6.2 Transition at all stages, whether from birth to home, home to nursery, primary to secondary, to a new home or residential situation or transition into a new specialist service, is a key issue for children, young people and families. Members were pleased to hear at the last meeting that HAS and CYPS have worked hard at improving the sharing of information and the planning and budgeting for services. A new pathway has been agreed between the HAS and CYPS directorates for young people transitioning from children's social care to adult social care. Clear protocols are consolidating better integration of services in appropriate areas to ensure appropriate support is in place as children move to adulthood.

6.3 As scrutiny members it is important that you assess how well we are supporting and responding to need during this very important stage in a young person's life. This committee's interest in this topic is shared by the Care and Independence Overview Scrutiny Committee. It was suggested that a joint session with that committee's membership be arranged. One possibility is to hold it at the conclusion of your December meeting.

6.4 I will advise on this at the committee meeting.

7.0 Annual Report of the Looked After Children's Group

7.1 This report has now been deferred to your December meeting.

8.0 Recommendation

8.1 The Committee is asked to confirm, comment or add to the areas of work listed in the Work Programme schedule.

DANIEL HARRY
SCRUTINY TEAM LEADER
County Hall,
Northallerton

Author and Presenter of Report: Ray Busby
Contact Details: Tel: 01609 532655
E-mail: ray.busby@northyorks.gov.uk

29 September 2019
Background Documents Nil

YOUNG PEOPLES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Scope

The interests of young people, including education, care and protection and family support.

Meeting Details

Committee Meetings	Friday 6 September 2019 at 10am
	Friday 6 December 2019 at 10am
	Friday 28 February 2020 at 10am

Programme

Friday 6 September 2019 Committee Meeting at 10am. Brierley Room			
TOPIC	CONTENT	APPROACH	LEAD
Safeguarding Young People.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well local safeguarding arrangements work effectively to protect children and young people. Briefing on the merging of the Children Safeguarding Strategy Groups (CSSGs), Local Safeguarding Adults Groups (LSAGs) and the non-operational element of the Local Delivery Team (LDT) 	Presentation and consideration of Annual Report (if available).	Professor Maggie Atkinson and James Parkes
Children in education who have a medical condition.	Consideration of public consultation on a proposed Medical Education Service to enable a more flexible delivery model for those children/young people who cannot access education because of medical needs.	Consideration of Key Decision and Consultation Documents. Presentation.	Jane le Sage and Carol-Ann Howe
Friday 6 December 2019 Committee Meeting at 10am. Brierley Room			
TOPIC	CONTENT	APPROACH	LEAD
Report of the Young Peoples Champion	Account of Activity over the past year. Discussion of Issues and challenges – especially connected with inclusion and engagement of young people.	Consideration of report.	Cllr Annabel Wilkinson

Looked After Children	Annual Report of the Looked After Children Members Group. Account of Activity over the past year. Assessment of progress against the LAC strategy	Consideration of report. Discussion of Issues and challenges.	Chair - Cllr Annabel Wilkinson assisted by Julie Bunn and Vicky Metheringham
Young people and Sex Education; Managing Risk and Safeguarding	How young people are helped to learn about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up. How we support schools to equip young people with the information, skills and values to have safe, fulfilling and enjoyable relationships and to take responsibility for their sexual-health and well-being.	Linked to Healthy Child Programme changes	
Children, Adolescents and the Media (online networks, social inclusion and bullying	The challenging social and health issues that online youth experience. Benefits and Risks of Youth using social media. Examination of the core issues of bullying, popularity and status, depression and social anxiety, risk-taking, and sexual development.	Consideration of Implications. Particular focus on Cyberbullying and Online Harassment. Possible witness sessions.	Likely to be deferred to February meeting
Friday 28 February 2019 at 10am			
TOPIC	CONTENT	APPROACH	LEAD
Young Carers	Especially those who support adults with mental health issues. The practical and emotional support made available to young people to ensure they enjoy and achieve, just like their peers. How NYCC works in partnership with schools, and GPs to identify young carers, raise much-needed awareness of their situation, and offer the support that they need, when they need it.	Consideration of Briefing Paper	
Teacher recruitment - the Rural Challenge	The challenges faced by schools, especially those in rural areas, in recruiting teaching staff. How NYCC/traded services supports.	Briefing report and possible witness sessions	
The experience of young people in			

foster care as they transition into adulthood			
---	--	--	--

Mid Cycle Briefing Items

Date	Probable Item
18 October 2019	This date will be changed. Provisionally 1 November 2019 Academies and how they serve communities
17 January 2020	Small Schools and their sustainability - scoping
3 April 2020	The Citizenship Agenda: Education and Democratic Citizenship

Other sessions

Young People with additional needs transitioning to Adulthood

Informal workshop session with Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee members (likely to be at the end of the 6 December committee meeting)

Elective Home Education

Provisional Date 1 November at 2pm agreed. New guidance may be available for this date