

North Yorkshire County Council

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2016 at 10.30 am at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present:

County Councillor Janet Jefferson in the Chair.

County Councillors: Val Arnold, Liz Casling, David Ireton, David Jeffels, Cliff Lunn, Joe Plant, John Ritchie, Elizabeth Shields and Cliff Trotter.

Co-opted Members: Mr Graham Richards (Church of England), Dr Tom Cavell-Taylor and, Mr Paul Bircumshaw (Secondary Teacher representative), Simon Hills and David Sharp (Voluntary Sector).

In attendance: Executive Member: Arthur Barker

Officers: Ray Busby (Corporate Development Officer, (Central Services)). Carolyn Bird (Assistant Director Strategy and Commissioning, Strategy and Commissioning (CYPS)), Claire Robinson (Health Improvement Manager, Public Health (HAS)), Marc Mason (Commissioning and Developments Manager (CYPS)).

Apologies for absence were received from: Louise Adler (Primary Teacher representative), Lindsay Burr MBE, Pam Crabtree (Roman Catholic Church representative) and Mr Jeremy Noot (Parent Governor).

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

87. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2016 having been printed and circulated be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

88. Any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to note.

89. Public Questions

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

90. Briefing and Presentation on the White Paper including strategic re-organisation of Educational Provision considered

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service introducing background papers as part of a briefing at the meeting on the White Paper: "Educational Excellence Everywhere".

Carolyn Bird took the committee through the range of proposals in the White Paper including:

Teacher training

- initial teacher training changes;
- replacing QTS with a more challenging accreditation.

School led system

- all schools academies by 2022;
- Regional Schools' Commissioners to intervene in underperforming academies/MATs;
- Redefined role for local authorities.

Curriculum

- Primary assessments to be reformed;
- Expansion of the National Citizen Service;
- Reform of alternative provision – schools to remain accountable.

Resources

- Ensure effective use of Pupil Premium;
- National funding formula.

Members concurred with the concerns highlighted by Carolyn as those of the Directorate:

- a concentration on structures;
- Capacity of the academy sector to take on more;
- Particular concerns for authorities such as North Yorkshire;
- Will schools find the levels of autonomy that they want?
- Inclusiveness of multi-academy trusts: what happens to the small, the financially pressed, those with standards not as high as they should be?

A number of members expressed the view that the overriding feature of the White Paper, and arguably its fundamental weakness, was that it was prompted by an unnecessary rush to “academise”.

The committee acknowledged the uncertainty around how the Local Authority's education duties will focus on three areas:

- ensuring every child has a school place;
- ensuring the needs of vulnerable children are met;
- acting as champions for all parents and families.

The committee considered the report of group spokespersons briefing on the strategic reorganisation of Educational Provision. Ray Busby explained that there has been no hard and fast rule about what matters scrutiny should take an interest in. The committee has rarely wished to look at specific school reorganisations proposals, and where it had done it has tended to be with a view to ensuring that appropriate considerations have been made and that consultation has been carried out appropriately. With so much change in the air, the committee settled on a way forward until the guidance is definitive.

Resolved -

- a) That the report be noted, and the proposed suggestion regarding scrutiny committee involvement in strategic level decisions regarding the provision of education be

agreed.

- b) That the committee be kept informed of the results of the many structured conversations taking place with key players and partners.
- c) The committee is particularly interested in what happens as the directorate looks to develop traded services through Smart Solutions, and even further ahead, the possibility of forming a Learning Trust.
- d) The committee keep a weather eye on developments, which might include convening a separate, workshop type session as those developments unfold.
- e) As a matter of routine, when any proposal regarding re-provision of educational provision has been agreed by Executive Member to go to consultation, the Scrutiny Officer will be notified, to enable the Chairman of YPOSC to consider whether, and at what time, the committee might wish to learn more about the proposal.

91. North Yorkshire Alcohol Strategy: Outcomes for Young People

Considered -

The presentation by Claire Robinson, Health Improvement Manager, Public Health, Health and Adult Services.

Claire summarised the first annual report of the North Yorkshire Joint Alcohol Strategy 2014 – 2019. She described progress and main developments against the three outcome areas underpinning the alcohol strategy, and the impact of increased investment.

Resolved -

That the presentation be noted.

92. Voice, Participation and Influence: Member Involvement

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service updating the Committee on what opportunities there are for future engagement opportunities with children and young people and make suggestions that will aid the development of a Promise 2 document.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

93. 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.

Resolved -

- a) That the content of the work programme report and the work programme schedule are noted.
- b) That the item on Careers Education, Information Advice & Guidance be the main focus of the next meeting.
- c) The date of the next meeting be changed from the scheduled date of the 16 September 2016 to the Friday, 30 September 2016.

The meeting concluded at 12.45pm

RB