

## North Yorkshire County Council

### Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2016 at 10.45 am at County Hall, Northallerton.

**Present:** County Councillor Janet Jefferson in the Chair.

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

Co-opted Members: Paul Bircumshaw (Secondary Teacher representative), David Sharp (Voluntary Sector).

In attendance:

Executive Members: County Councillors Arthur Barker and Janet Sanderson

Officers: Ray Busby (Corporate Development Officer (Central Services)), Katharine Bruce (Lead Adviser - Vulnerable Learners, Education and Skills (CYPS)), Pete Dwyer (Corporate Director of CYPS) and Simon Moss (Strategic Analyst, Strategy and Commissioning (CYPS))

Apologies for absence were received from: County Councillors Lindsay Burr MBE and Liz Casling. Pam Crabtree (Roman Catholic Church representative), Jeremy Noot and Dr Tom Cavell-Taylor (Parent Governor Representatives), Louise Adler (Primary Teacher representative). Simon Hills (Voluntary Sector).

#### Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

#### 99. Minutes

##### Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2016 having been printed and circulated be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### 100. Any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to note.

#### 101. Public Questions

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

#### 102. Planning for Future Committee Items

Considered –

Ray Busby explained that the committee has added two items to its work programme - Early intervention in Schools on Drugs and Alcohol, and Young People and Hospital

Admissions - but had not had the opportunity to decide the direction this review work might take. The two presentations outlined Group Spokespersons' thoughts.

### **i) Early Interventions in Schools on Drugs and Alcohol**

Ray Busby highlighted School responsibilities for these three areas (Drugs, alcohol, Tobacco which are in part the same (especially awareness, education and prevention, but can be quite different (especially intervention and treatment).

#### **Resolved –**

- a) It was agreed that group spokespersons now consider how best to undertake this work.
- b) The planned scope to cover the following:
  - The emphasis of the work would be on personal health concerns
  - The key focus to be on early identification and assessment of young people (11 and 18), looking at assessment procedures used to establish the degree of risk, and possibly the treatment pathway
  - Effective processes for supporting pupils with additional needs relating to alcohol and drugs and referring them to external services where appropriate
  - Are services and interventions designed to engage and retain young people and respond to their needs? Are they in keeping with recognised Practice Standards?
  - Effectiveness of inter-agency working and whether there were any gaps, inconsistencies or variations in the processes used by the agencies involved
  - Reference this work, and test against, high level, strategic commitment and co-ordination

### **ii) Young People and Hospital Admissions**

Group Spokespersons suggested that the committee could focus on common mental health problems including phobias, depression, anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder and panic disorder. So, it was reasonable to concentrate on the causes of “potentially avoidable” admissions, not, in isolation, the causes for mental health. Taking this approach would most likely encompass, for example:

- Eating disorders
- Self-harm
- Substance use

Members agreed that more work was needed on understanding the issue before an informed decision could be made on how best to go about the work.

#### **Resolved -**

That group spokespersons research the issue further before reporting back to the committee.

## **103. Growing up in North Yorkshire**

Considered -

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

The Chairman thanked Pete Dwyer and his staff for ensuring that the committee was able to review the results of the Growing Up in North Yorkshire Survey Report before this year's publication date. Meeting this deadline had obviously meant putting in considerable extra effort to get the analysis completed in so short a time, without, the Chairman added, losing any of the high level of quality of interpretation seen on previous occasions.

As far as scrutiny is concerned, being able to review it before it was published meant that we could take a view on the rigour of the survey process, how the results had been analysed, and receive reassurance that the potential of the findings to help children and young people and the services that support them, is being used to the greatest possible extent.

Katharine Bruce explained that there was 100% participation rate of all local authority maintained secondary schools with the majority of secondary school academies taking part (10/12). Primary school uptake was similar to 2014, and it was pleasing to see the increased uptake of Special Schools.

Members liked the introduction in the 2016 survey of an increased focus on risk taking behaviours, including additional questions on online safety, use of e-cigarettes and healthy relationships. Also useful, and informative, is the broadening of the approach to reporting to include a specific focus on outcomes for 'Disadvantaged pupils' in every report where sample size permits.

Katharine Bruce took members through the report, Simon Moss adding comments by way of a presentation. Members particularly noted the following emerging trends which the committee took particular note of.

- a) the identified priorities from 2014 remain the same:
  - Developing Resilience and Emotional Wellbeing
  - Pupil Voice influencing decisions
  - Positive Ethos and Culture of School
  - Risky Behaviours including those related to use of modern technologies
- b) Transition at KS2/3 has improved, but Careers Guidance and post-16 transition remain a priority. The Key Stage One results are very similar to the previous questionnaire in 2014
- c) The Key Stage Two results show continued improvements in the percentage who don't drink energy drinks (up from 50% in 2012 to 60% in 2014 to 69% in 2016), however the percentage who do not drink alcohol has decreased slightly (48% in 2012, 83% in 2014 and 75% on 2016).
- d) There are positive trends around internet safety, with 8% responding they communicate online with people they don't know (13% in 2014). 30% say they are never supervised when using the internet (33% in 2014). 74% of pupils say they found school lessons on internet safety 'quite' or 'very' useful.
- e) At Key Stage Four there has been a continued improvement in the situation regarding alcohol with a higher percentage reporting that they never drink alcohol (up from 31% in 2012 to 43% in 2014 and 46% in 2016), a decrease in the percentage who had been given alcohol by a friend in the week preceding the questionnaire (down from 10% in 2012 to 6% in 2014 to 4% in 2016), and a decrease in the percentage who had drunk alcohol in the week preceding the questionnaire (down from 31% in 2012 to 24% in 2014 to 20% in 2016).

- f) There has been an improvement in some of the questions around bullying and negative behaviour with pupils now less likely to say they have experienced negative behaviour during lesson time in the month before the survey (23% in 2014, 17% in 2016) and the percentage experiencing negative behaviour outside school decreasing from 26% to 20%.
- g) There are some positive trends around internet safety, with secondary pupils are less likely now to communicate with people they have met online and don't know in real life (22% in 2014, 18% in 2016).
- h) There has been an apparent increase in the reporting of bullying or aggressive behaviours within dating relationships among Y10 pupils. 4% said they were experiencing aggression in their current relationship, while 22% said they had with a previous boy-/girl-friend; the figures for 2014 were 3% and 20%.
- i) The survey results on "Closing the Gap" were illuminating, especially as this has featured on the committee's work programme on number of occasions over recent years and will be part of a report to our next meeting.
- j) Compared to the rest of Year 6:
  - Disadvantaged children are more likely to have lower wellbeing scores, be bullied and to worry about school and less likely to do 7+ hours of exercise a week.
  - SEN and pupils with disabilities are more likely to be bullied at school and worry about their health
- k) Compared to the rest of Year 10:
  - Disadvantaged children were less likely to intend to go to University and more likely to be bullied, skip breakfast, be absent from school, smoke and be a victim of crime/violence.
  - Armed forces pupils were more likely to have been offered drugs and to be sexually active.

**Resolved -**

That the report and presentation be noted.

**104. 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 -**

That the content of the Work Programme report and the Work Programme schedule are noted.

The meeting concluded at 12.30pm

RB