

North Yorkshire County Council

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2017 at 10am at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present: County Councillor Janet Jefferson in the Chair.

County Councillors: Val Arnold, Caroline Dickinson, David Ireton, David Jeffels, Cliff Lunn, , John Ritchie, Elizabeth Shields, and Robert Windass (as substitute for Cliff Trotter)

Co-opted Members: Paul Bircumshaw (Secondary Teacher representative), David Sharp (Voluntary Sector). Pam Crabtree (Roman Catholic Church representative. Dr Tom Cavell-Taylor (Parent Governor Representative)

In attendance:

Executive Members: County Councillor 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) Keeley Ungerechts Headteacher, Sowerby Community Primary School), Wendy Jemison Lead adviser SEND, Paul Brennan, Assistant Director

Apologies for absence were received from: County Councillors Lindsay Burr MBE, Liz Casling, Joe Plant and Cliff Trotter), Jeremy Noot (Parent Governor Representative), Louise Adler (Primary Teacher representative). Simon Hills (Voluntary Sector).

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

105. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2016 having been printed and circulated be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

106. Any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to note.

107. Public Questions

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

108. Youth Justice Service

Considered –

Presentation by Julie Firth, Head of Prevention on the Youth Justice System.

Julie explained:

- The statutory context including:
reference to Section 39(1) of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act (the act) it is the duty of every local authority, acting in co-operation with partner agencies (who are under a duty to co-operate with the local authority), to establish for their area one or more youth offending teams (YOT)

Statutory partners - Local Authority, Police, Probation and Health

- The Youth Justice Plan which sets out how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; how the YOT will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.

Members:

- Supported the list of Youth Justice Priorities for 2016/17.
- Were encouraged that the national picture of young people in the youth justice system reducing by approx. 80% since 2007 is reflected in North Yorkshire when comparing the position in 2007 with the most recent data.

Members recognised the challenges facing the system: Funding reductions, both from national grant funding and local statutory partners; the need to reduce re-offending rates, particularly the frequency rate, against the backdrop of reduced resources. And, therefore, member were encouraged at the stated position of the need to change the present delivery model which is not sustainable

The Committee then heard from Leigh Moore, Practice Manager, Children and Families about how the service works with young people from risk assessment, planning stage, referral, contract and reparation. Members especially liked the range of resources used in interventions, the use of community activities and the overriding emphasis on positive activities. The review process was also praised.

Members recognised the challenges facing the system: funding reductions, both from national grant funding and local statutory partners; the need to reduce re-offending rates, particularly the frequency rate, against the backdrop of reduced resources.

Resolved –

Members asked that their satisfaction at the stated position of the need to change the present delivery model, which is not sustainable, be recorded, and looked forward to revisiting this issue in a year's time

109. Closing the Gap

Considered -

Presentations as follows

- a) Kirsty Hallett, Lead Adviser, Standards and Research explained what the data around use of the measure connected with closing the gap initiatives is telling us. From this, members made particular reference to the following:
 - they are having a positive impact from work of cohort 3 schools
 - Continued focus will be FSM6 and SEN at every key stage
 - The importance of Aspects of school culture and ethos
There is a strong correlation in KS2 and KS4 between having been bullied and low outcomes; wellbeing and attainment and progress

- b) Katharine Bruce, Lead Adviser - Vulnerable Learners gave a presentation about the independent, professional report produced by Marc Rowland in the findings relating to the Achievement Unlocked Project. This provided a key update as to what had been achieved since the committee last looked at Closing the Gap.
- c) Keeley Ungerechts Headteacher, Sowerby Community Primary School) outlined to members the various measures that had been undertaken to tackle underperformance -especially in the main area of speech and language. Some of the successful activities included:
 - A long term plan to tackle issues early before pupils get to KS2.
 - Working closely with other settings
 - High expectations from all staff
 - Teaching in mixed ability groups whenever possible
 - Balance of Teaching Assistant and teacher time for ALL groups
- d) Wendy Jemison (Lead adviser SEND) talked about the measures being taken to close the gap in respect for children with special needs
- e) Paul Brennan, Assistant Director talked about the measures being taken under the Scarborough Opportunities initiative

Resolved -

- a) Members were reassured that the Closing the attainment gap is a key and evidenced local priority of the Children and Young People's Plan, which is being tackled effectively and imaginatively at an operational through to strategic level.
- b) Members agreed that there was evidence to validate the claim that the Achievement Unlocked Collaborative Partnership has enabled us to build on the progress that has been made within the county, but also to look beyond and learn from excellent, and evidence based, practice which has brought about improvement in outcomes for disadvantaged learners and those with special educational needs.
- c) Members placed on record their thanks to the North Yorkshire schools involved in Achievement Unlocked for the commitment and energy they have brought to the collaborative partnership.
- d) Members wished to emphasise in particular the finding that schools that have improved and sustained successes through Achievement Unlocked are those that have adopted a strategy based on the active ingredients for success for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.

110. 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 planned approach to consideration of Exclusions - a mixture of informal engagement and formal scrutiny committee work – be agreed. The proposal that Nick Frost, Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board attend the meeting on the 8 September 2017 to present the Board's Annual Report. Be agreed
- c) This safeguarding item be broadened out using the annual report as the centrepiece for a wider dialogue about partnership commitment and activity, and more generally about how we keep North Yorkshire's children safe.
- d) That the other proposed changes to the work programme, suggested by the group spokespersons, be agreed
- e) The setting out of a limited number of big themes to help structure and plan business for the next eighteen months based upon the diagram attached to the report, be approved

The meeting concluded at 12.30pm

RB