

North Yorkshire County Council

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2018 at 11am at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present: County Councillor Janet Jefferson in the Chair.

Councillors: Lindsay Burr MBE, Keane Duncan, David Jeffels (as substitute for Joe Plant), Cliff Lunn, John Mann, Stuart Martin MBE, Zoe Metcalfe, Gill Quinn and Annabel Wilkinson.

Co-opted Members: David Watson (North Yorkshire Sport)

In attendance:

Officers: Ray Busby (Corporate Development Officer (Central Services)), Stuart Carlton (Corporate Director Children and Young Peoples Services) Jane Harvey (Senior Planning & Development Officer, Inclusion (CYPS)) and Jane le Sage (Assistant Director Inclusion, Inclusion (CYPS))

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors Stephanie Duckett and Joe Plant; David Sharp (North Yorkshire Youth) and Dr Tom Cavell-Taylor (Non-voting members); and from Executive Members: County Councillor Patrick Mulligan and Janet Sanderson.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

136. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2018 having been printed and circulated be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

137. Any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to note.

138. Public Questions

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

139. North Yorkshire's Strategic Plan for SEND provision 0-25

Considered –

- a) Report submitted to the CYPS Executive Members on the Strategic Plan for SEND Education provision 0-25 (the Strategic Plan)
- b) Decision notice recording approval to undertake public consultation on the North Yorkshire Strategic Plan for SEND Education Provision 0-25

c) Presentation by Jane le Sage and Jane Harvey.

Jane le Sage and Jane Harvey talked Members through the proposals. As a result of this presentation and their answers to questions, Members settled on the following as the committee's position on the proposals.

In the committee's view, when making their decision the portfolio holders appear to have had access to all the right information. This is a large budget and is under great pressure; therefore, the time is right to come forward with careful, sympathetic yet ambitious proposals, ones that reshape the local system so that it operates better and in the interests of local people.

The rationale for taking the plan forward in two phases was supported. In its current format, members considered the plan to be a clear and comprehensive document. In particular, the inclusion of capital planning as part of the proposals makes for a more rounded and active approach.

Members endorsed the three principles underpinning the plan and the supporting outcomes. Members liked that a particular emphasis on early intervention is identified in the plan.

The committee believes that the plan is being developed by an effective assessment of local needs. It takes into account the diverse educational landscape - academies, trusts etc.

The proposals adhere to the premise that mainstream schools, colleges and other settings need and will do more to meet the additional needs of SEND learners.

There appears to be a clear understanding and prediction of the demands and trend associated with SEND provision, and an honest and transparent means of identifying gaps in provision. The committee believed that the statement that this exercise is not about cost cutting but about staying within budget and reshaping the service to provide effective support was corroborated by the plan's content.

The committee strongly endorsed the notion that access to support is not a ladder rather that people get the relevant type and degree of support at the right time according to their needs and circumstances.

The governance arrangements were welcomed.

The committee is behind the commitment to locality based support and, in this context, members commented favourably upon the progressive approach to the Targeting of mainstream support

Members were pleased that CYPS had arranged a variety of different types of meetings with differing stakeholders, across the changing educational landscape (mainstream academies, providers for example) and parties affected by the proposals -recognising their differing interests. In the committee's view this represents good coverage and has proven to be a sensible approach.

Feedback from informal consultation has wisely informed the shape and detail of the proposals, and also helped decisions about how the formal consultation can be most effectively carried out.

The timescales and process for the impending consultation appear to be right; it does seem as though people will have enough time and opportunity to contribute

The committee recognised the determination to ensure that the consultation arrangements provide for the views of parents, providers and all other stakeholders to be taken into account. In this context, members encouraged the directorate to continue to engage with teaching professionals – especially those involved with those enhanced mainstream schools that provide specialist advice and outreach support for Specific Learning Difficulties.

The committee believes it is important that all parents are engaged in commissioning and that their views and experiences help shape the service. There is, however, a need to have inclusive arrangements for SEND parents, many of whom because of the day-to-day challenges they face often struggle to play a full and active role in consultation events.

Resolved –

- a) The committee's views as outlined above be forwarded to the directorate.
- b) Once the results of the consultation exercise are known, the committee will decide whether it ought to revisit this issue prior to the Executive's being asked whether it wishes to go ahead with implementation of the plan.

140. 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) Members again confirmed that proposals come forward as to the value of the committee reviewing:
 - School Preparedness – how pupils and parents are supported when they start school
 - Elective Home Education - where parents or carers of a child decide to educate their child at home instead of sending them to a school.
- b) That the content of the Work Programme report and the Work Programme schedule are noted.

The meeting concluded at 12.30pm

RB