

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

10 February 2015

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm at the Centre for Excellence, Training and Learning, Brierton Lane, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Chris Simmons (In the Chair)

Councillors: Mary Fleet, Sheila Griffin, Gerard Hall, John Lauderdale and Brenda Loynes

Young people's representatives:
Hollie Bratt and Shay Miah

Also in attendance:
Julie Cordiner

Officers: Dean Jackson, Assistant Director, Education
Mark Smith, Head of Integrated Youth Support Services
David Ward, Head of Finance (Child, Adult Services and Public Health)
Mark Patton, Senior School Improvement Advisor
Deborah Gibbin, Health Improvement Practitioner
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

76. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lilley.

77. Declarations of Interest

None.

78. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2014

Received.

79. Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2015-2016 (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework

Purpose of report

To set out proposals for the strategic planning of local Youth Justice priorities in Hartlepool for 2015-2016 and provide the Committee with an opportunity to comment on the initial priorities identified as part of the planning process.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the national Youth Justice System and the primary functions of the Youth Offending Service. It was noted that the planning framework to support the development of the 2015/16 Youth Justice Strategic Plan would draw upon the appraisal of the Youth Justice Board's Regional Partnership Manager, self-audit activities, the local Youth Offending Service Strategic Management Board and the views and opinions of service users, staff and key partners, as well as victims of youth crime in Hartlepool. Early planning had incorporated a review of progress made against last year's plan and performance and informed the initial priorities for 2014/15 which were included in the report.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Head of Integrated Youth Support Services indicated that in relation to the rate of offending, information was monitored on how many offenders would go on to commit further offences and it was noted that sadly a small number of young people were responsible for a significant proportion of youth crime. A Member questioned whether there was any link up with the Community Payback Scheme for young offenders. The Head of Integrated Youth Support Services informed Members that there was a Reparation Activities Team in place and where appropriate and as deemed by the Courts, community payback activities can be incorporated into any agreed restorative justice, such as graffiti removal, clean up and gardening. The Head of Integrated Youth Support Services confirmed that all activities were risk assessed with appropriate insurances in place, to ensure they were safe for the young people to undertake. Reparation activities were mainly undertaken with older young people with 1:1 support provided to the younger children.

The Head of Integrated Youth Support Services indicated that the whole family approach was very challenging but it was increasingly recognised that a greater emphasis should be placed on working with parents and other family members to encourage a change in their behaviour. Members were

informed that the work of the Think Families Think Communities Team was being embedded across all aspects of Children's Services to encourage everyone to work in a 'Think Family' way.

One of the young people's representatives sought clarification on the number of young offenders who were looked after within the care system. The Head of Integrated Youth Support Services commented that of those young people committing offences deemed necessary to go to Court, around 10% were young people who were looked after within the care system. In relation to young people who had interaction and support from social care the level of offending was around 40%.

The Head of Integrated Youth Support Services confirmed that there were a small number of secure facilities for young offenders in the country with the nearest being Newton Aycliffe Secure Children's Home. The placement of young offenders within these institutions, or with extended family members where practicable, involved a lot of planning to ensure the most appropriate place was allocated to that young person.

Decision

The development of the 2015/16 Youth Justice Plan was agreed.

80. Early Years and School Infrastructure Plan (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

Key Decision – Test (ii) applies – Forward Plan Reference No C&AS 28/14.

Purpose of report

To seek the Committee's approval to adopt the Early Years and School Infrastructure Plan.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the development and publication of the Early Years and School Infrastructure Plan. Consultation had taken place and the Plan had been presented to the Schools' Forum on 22 October 2014. In view of the comments received, meetings had been held with schools and further meetings were scheduled during February 2015. It was noted that the Plan will be reviewed every three years and renewed every ten years which will enable the Council to respond to capacity demands arising from increasing births and needs generated by new housing developments.

In response to clarification sought by a Member, the Health Improvement Practitioner confirmed that data used to monitor the birth rate was based on where that baby resided rather than where the birth was registered.

The Assistant Director, Education commented that this Plan would look at the factors affecting early years education including what was needed, identifying any pressure areas and how early years would be financed including any contributions to be received from developers. It was noted that discussions would be undertaken with developers to ascertain if any land would be set aside for new schools or whether a financial contribution would be made to extend local schools.

Decision

The Early Years and School Infrastructure Plan was approved for adoption.

81. Strategic Financial Management Report – as at 31 December 2014 *(Director of Child and Adult Services and Chief Finance Officer)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To inform Members of the 2014/15 Forecast General Fund Outturn 2014/15 Capital Programme Monitoring and provide details for the specific budget areas that this Committee is responsible for.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background and reporting arrangements for 2014/15. It was highlighted that there was a net forecast of uncommitted underspend at the year end of £188,000 which equated to 0.2% of the net annual budget. The 2014/15 Forecast General Fund Outturn and planned capital expenditure for the Children's Services Committee's responsibilities were detailed in the report.

The Chair informed Members that English Martyrs and High Tunstall Secondary Schools had secured funding from the Education Funding Agency for a new build/part rebuild of the schools. A co-opted member who was also the current Head Teacher at English Martyrs School paid tribute to the hard work and commitment of Council Officers in securing this funding bid. The Assistant Director, Education indicated that from the receipt of funding to the completion of any build/rebuild should be around 2½ to 3 years.

Decision

The report was noted.

82. Update on the Procurement of Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Service and the Transfer of the 0-5 Public Health Services Commissioning *(Director of Public Health)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To update the Committee on:

- The outcome of the procurement of a Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Service; and
- The progress regarding the transfer of 0-5 children's public health service from NHS England to the Local Authority.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the formal transfer of Local Public Health Services to Local Authorities and outlined the outcome of the procurement of the Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Service. The children's public health commissioning responsibilities for 0-5 year olds will transfer from NHS England to Local Authorities on 1 October 2015. Work was ongoing between Hartlepool Borough Council, Stockton Borough Council and NHS England Area Team to develop plans for a smooth transfer of these responsibilities.

In addition, work was ongoing with the Area Team, as the outgoing commissioner, to put in place new contracts with existing providers to ensure services were available to patients throughout the transition year. Service continuity and stability were the key principles of safe transfer.

The Chair was pleased to note that the School Nursing Service would be provided in-house as this will help shape the service to meet the needs of Hartlepool schools.

Decision

The report was noted with the Committee receiving update reports on the progress of the transfer of commissioning responsibilities of the 0-5 children's public health services in the autumn of this year.

83. Key Stage 4 Pupil Achievement Summary 2014 (Provisional) *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To provide a summary of Key Stage 4 pupil achievement outcomes from public examinations 2013-14 and to indicate any significant trends.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the formal assessment of the attainment of children and young people including the nationally benchmarked outcomes. Further detail on the attainment outcomes was included within the report.

The overall summary highlighted that standards of attainment in Hartlepool remain broadly in line with national averages with standards in English improving at a steady rate. However, it was noted that the progress of students in mathematics and science could be improved.

Decision

The content of the report was noted.

84. Update on the Review of Provision for Pupils with Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties at Hartlepool Pupil Referral Unit, Catcote Academy and Springwell Special School *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To update the Committee on the feasibility study being carried out to determine the most appropriate model of educational provision to meet the needs of children and young people with behavioural difficulties in Hartlepool. This need is currently being met in Hartlepool at the Hartlepool Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), Catcote Academy and Springwell Special School. The Committee agreed to the feasibility study at its meeting of 2 September 2014.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the educational provision to meet the needs of children and young people with behavioural difficulties in Hartlepool. The PRU had been relocated to the redeveloped Brierton Site with a further £205,000 capital expenditure for the further development of the facility recently agreed by the Finance and Policy Committee.

Catcote Special School was proposing to make two bids to the Department for Education Academies Capital Maintenance Fund to develop and improve the accommodation for both its Behavioural, Social and Emotional Difficulties (BESD) provision and its Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) provision. Furthermore, additional commissioned BESD provision will need to be developed for the growing number of Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils requiring support and it was noted that the current work at the PRU and the proposals for Catcote Academy will support this ambition.

It was noted that a further report would be submitted to the Committee before the end of the academic year examining how alternative education can be developed in the next 5 years. The Assistant Director, Education added that the review would look at the age range for the provision at the PRU and whether this was the most appropriate way of providing the age appropriate education provision.

It was noted that the outcome of the bids for funding should be announced imminently.

Decision

- (1) It was noted that the review of the current educational provision in Hartlepool for all pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties was progressing well. A final report will be presented to the Committee which will recommend a model of alternative educational provision that fully meets the needs of children and young people with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.
- (2) It was noted that the Finance and Policy Committee had agreed to a further £205,000 of capital expenditure at the Pupil Referral unit to

ensure that the full curriculum needs of the young people taught there were met.

- (3) It was noted that Catcote Academy had submitted two bids to the DfE Academies Capital Maintenance Fund for capital funding to improve the quality of accommodation for both their behavioural, emotional and social difficulties provision and their Autism Spectrum Disorder provision.

85. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

The Chairman ruled that the following items of business should be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B) (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the matter could be dealt with without delay.

86. Any Other Business – Pilot Scheme – Breakfast Provision for Primary School Children

The Chair provided the Committee with an update on the above with two schools engaged with the pilot in addition to West View Primary School. There were a further two schools considering coming on board from the beginning of the new financial year. A further update report would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

Decision

The update provided was noted along with the intention to submit a further update on how the Pilot Scheme was progressing to a future meeting of the Committee.

87. Any Other Business – Assistant Director, Education

The Chair informed Members that this was the last meeting of the Children's Services Committee that the Assistant Director, Education would be attending as he had secured an appointment at another Local Authority. The Chair conveyed his personal thanks as well as those of the Committee to the Assistant Director for all his hard work, commitment and guidance in improving the education standards across the town and wished him well in the next stage of his career.

The meeting concluded at 5.18 pm

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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