

# **CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

17 October 2017

The meeting commenced at 4.30 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillor: Alan Clark (In the Chair)

Councillors: Brenda Harrison, John Lauderdale, Shane Moore and Kaylee Sirs

Co-opted members:

Jo Heaton, C of E Diocesan Representative

David Turner, Primary Schools Head Representative

Alan Chapman, Special Schools Head Representative

Healthwatch representatives: Ruby Marshall.

Young people's representatives:

Callum Reed, Hartlepool Youth Parliament

Junior and Young Inspectors:

Terri Lee Mincher, Teegan Alsop, Dylan Alsop, Marlene Ward, Katie Cooper, Izzy Davies and Beth Branfoot

Also present:

Rebecca Ferguson and Lindsey Hildreth, West View Project

Officers:

Sally Robinson, Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services

Danielle Swainston, Assistant Director, Children's and Family Services

Mark Patton, Assistant Director, Education

Leigh Keeble, Development Manager

Juliette Ward, Participation Officer

Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **33. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors George Morris and Stephen Thomas along with Mark Tilling (Secondary representative).

### **34. Declarations of Interest**

The Headteachers declared non-prejudicial interests.

### **35. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2017**

Received.

### **36. Matters arising from the Minutes**

The Assistant Director, Education confirmed that the additional Council funding of £100k provided for the Priority Schools Building Programme – Phase 1 for Barnard Grove Primary School was included within the area calculations submitted in the report considered at the last meeting of the Committee.

### **37. Update of the Work of the Junior and Young Inspectors** *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

#### **Type of decision**

Non key.

#### **Purpose of report**

To present the inspection and consultation reports produced by the Young Inspectors requested by Children's Services Committee.

The inspection reports and consultation reports attached as appendices 1 to 6 provide an insight into services and organisations that have been scrutinised by young people and have been given feedback and recommendations for improvement.

#### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Participation Team facilitate a number of Junior and Young inspectors to undertake inspections and consultations covering the following areas:

- North Tees Hospital Children's Inpatients and Outpatients Wards;
- Hartlepool Hospital Children's Outpatients Ward; and
- Mental Health and Digital Technology; and
- North East Ambulance Service – Station and Call Centre (forthcoming inspection).

The Junior and Young Inspectors gave a detailed and comprehensive presentation which provided a number of strengths and recommendations from each of the above areas. It was highlighted that

the Junior Inspectors had recently visited Stranton Primary School with the aim of recruiting more Junior Inspectors.

In relation to ongoing consultation it was noted that a report had been presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 16 October 2017 which had been produced by a partnership between the Centre for Political Youth Culture and Communication (Department of Sociology) and the Department of Health Sciences based at the University of York, Hartlepool Borough Council, Hartlepool Healthwatch and three digital artists. The aim of the project was to enable young people to learn why research was important, research techniques and how this information can be used. It would also enable children and young people to have an impact upon their local health and social care policy formulation and service provision.

In addition to this, it was noted that the Young Inspectors had been trained in dementia awareness and hope to use this training to look at ways to make more young people in Hartlepool dementia aware.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Inspectors indicated that they did consider that access to WIFI within hospitals for young people was important. The Inspectors also confirmed that the young people who were consulted did not want to be on their own when they were admitted to hospital and preferred to be in wards with other young people.

A discussion ensued on the potential of a mental health app for young people to access and it was noted that during the consultation, young people had indicated that it was not personal enough adding that they would rather speak to someone direct.

It was noted that the findings of the consultation projects had been presented to North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust and feedback on how the findings were going to be taken forward would be provided in due course.

The Junior and Young Inspectors were thanked for their hard work and commitment in undertaking the various consultation projects, the work produced was very comprehensive.

### **Decision**

The findings and recommendations of the Inspection reports undertaken by the Junior and Young Inspectors were noted.

## **38. Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2017-19** (*Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*)

### **Type of decision**

Budget and Policy Framework

### **Purpose of report**

To consult with the Committee on the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2017-19 which was attached at Appendix A. The recommendations from the Committee will be incorporated into the final Plan which will then be submitted to Council on 14 December 2017. The Plan will also be presented to the National Youth Justice Board who had provided some very positive initial feedback on the Plan.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

It was proposed that the Youth Justice Service and broader Youth Justice Partnership focus on the following key strategic objectives during 2017-19:

- Re-offending;
- Early Intervention and Prevention;
- Remand and Custody;
- Risk and Safety and Wellbeing (ASSETplus);
- Restorative Justice;
- Effective Governance;
- Voice of the Young People; and
- Extremism and PREVENT Strategy.

A Headteacher representative commented that it was pleasing to see the emphasis on early help and prevention and the joining together of education and social care.

The following decision was unanimous.

### **Decision**

That the youth Justice Strategic Plan 2017-2019 be presented to Council on 14 December 2017.

## **39. Commissioned Placements Review for the Pupil Referral Unit** *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Key Decision – Test (i) and (ii) apply – Forward Plan Reference CAS066/17.

### **Purpose of report**

To approve the reduction in ESFA commissioned placements at the Hartlepool Pupil Referral Unit from 24 to 12 places. The reduction will commence from September 2018.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The report included a table which indicated the number of permanently excluded (PEX) full time equivalent (FTE) pupils access the PRU over the last three years, including attendance information. The proposal to reduce the number of commissioned places from 24 to 12 was based on the information around the number of FTE PEX pupils. It was noted that should the Council need to commission additional places for PEX pupils, this will be done as and when the need arises, in partnership with the PRU and other education providers, such as schools and academies. It was highlighted that the number of PEX was not likely to reach the significant levels of 2016/17.

The Assistant Director, Education added that attendance at the PRU continued to be low and this was concerning. However, work was ongoing with the PRU to address this, including the provision of support from the Council's Attendance Team to explore a range of strategies, including the curriculum offer provided at the PRU.

During the discussion that followed it was noted that partnership work between primary and secondary schools was ongoing to ensure the specific needs of individual permanently excluded pupils were met through the availability of specific expertise. However, it was noted that there were very few primary pupils subject to permanent exclusion, although some primary schools did access the PRU for specific support for their pupils on a short term basis as and when required. In response to questions from Members, the Assistant Director indicated that the reasons for the permanent exclusion of pupils were hugely varied and included curriculum based, behaviour and mental health issues.

It was noted that the aim was that the proposals would be in place from September 2018.

The following decision was unanimous.

### **Decision**

That the reduction in commissioned placements at Hartlepool Pupil Referral unit from 24 to 12 places was approved and would commence from September 2018.

## **40. Adoption Tees Valley – Full Business Case** (*Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*)

### **Type of decision**

Key Decision Test (i) and (ii) apply – Forward Plan Reference CAS065/17.

### **Purpose of report**

To seek approval of the Full Business Case (FBC) to develop the new Adoption Tees Valley (ATV) adoption agency and approve the delegated powers to Stockton Borough Council.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The background to the development of a Tees Valley adoption agency was provided in the report. The Full Business Case, including the governance arrangements, was outlined in the report and included the following design principles:

- Stockton will be the host for 'pay and rations' only and a governance model will be developed to allow all five authorities to have an equal say in the running and future development of the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA).
- The RAA would have its own identity, branding and discrete location.
- A review would be undertaken after 18-24 months to consider whether moving to a separate legal entity would be appropriate.

To deliver this model, the local authorities will enter into joint arrangements under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972. Further details were provided within the report on the service design, staffing and financing of the agency.

The plans and next steps were outlined in the report and it was proposed that the initial work for transition and implementation would commence as soon as possible to ensure timely implementation.

The Chair commented that this was a significant shift from the where the adoption service was currently but it was a positive step in the right direction. In response to a question from the Chair, the Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services indicated that as a minimum requirement, half-yearly reports on the performance and progress of the Tees Valley Adoption Agency would be submitted to the Children's Services Committee.

The Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services provided clarification on a number of points raised by Members adding that the comment received in relation to ensuring that the location of the Tees Valley Adoption Agency should be easily accessible by public transport would be passed on.

The following decision was unanimous.

### **Decision**

- (1) The Adoption Tees Valley Full Business Case as attached at Appendix 1 was approved.
- (2) The duties set out in the draft section 101 Agreement, attached at Appendix 2, were delegated to Stockton Borough Council.
- (3) The Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services was authorised, in consultation with the Chief Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, Director of Finance and Policy and Lead Member for Children's Services to agree the final details of the draft section 101 agreement subject to there being no substantial changes to the Full Business Case and draft section 101 agreement as it appeared in Appendix 2.
- (4) That, subject to the execution of the section 101 agreement once it had been finalised in accordance with the authorisation in recommendation (3) above, Hartlepool Borough Council agrees that Stockton Borough Council will exercise delegated functions on its behalf with regard to the recruitment and assessment of adopters, adoption panels, family finding and adoption support.

## **41. Review of Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP)** *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of report**

To seek approval for a review of all Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) within the town as part of the SEND review.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The report provided the background to the Additionally Resourced Provision which specialises in a particular areas of special educational needs. It was proposed to move to a model with the following principles:

- Provision to match the four areas of need as defined in the SEND Code of Practice in proportion to the cohorts in Hartlepool – Communication and Interaction; Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH); Physical and Medical; Cognition and Learning.
- Provision to provide an early transition from primary to secondary provision.
- Provision to be located in geographical locations spread across the town.

A work programme had been developed for the review and this was detailed in the report. The report highlighted that a significant amount of work had already been undertaken in relation to identifying solutions for

the growing issue of Social Emotional and Mental Health provision for children and young people across the town. It was noted that the Council was unable to obtain additional places from the ESFA and therefore had to utilise the current places to the best effect.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Assistant Director, Education confirmed that the total number of places available would remain at 96. The Headteachers commented that this was a difficult review to undertake and that Officers should be mindful of schools with new headteachers and management teams in place who may be unaware of the history behind the current distribution of ARP places.

The following decision was unanimous.

### **Decision**

That the Department's intention to undertake a review of all Additionally Resourced Provision within the town was approved.

## **42. Refugee Resettlement Programme - Education** (*Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*)

### **Type of decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of report**

To provide an overview of the education element of the Refugee Resettlement Programme and show the current position in relation to the transition of refugees resettled under the programme into Hartlepool schools.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The background to the creation of the Education Hub was outlined in the report. It was noted that within the first two weeks of the families arriving in Hartlepool, the Hub was used as a family support base. Child's and Adolescents Mental Health Services (CAMHS) staff liaise closely with the Virtual School staff in carrying out initial assessments of the emotional needs of the children and young people where necessary. Further details of the operation of the Education Hub and the support offered to families was provided in the report.

A table was included in the report which showed the numbers of children, by year group, resettled in Hartlepool and the schools which they were attending. The Assistant Director, Education confirmed that the next set of families will be arriving in Hartlepool in November and preparation work was ongoing. The Assistant Director highlighted the equality and diversity considerations within the report and the positive feedback



received following a visit by from the North East Migration Partnership and the Home Office in the summer term.

The Chair echoed the positive comments adding that Hartlepool should be very proud of the commitment given to resettle a number of families each year and the ongoing work to assist people who had been displaced through no fault of their own and to integrate them into the local communities. On behalf of the Committee, the Chair congratulated everyone involved with assisting these families to resettle.

The Chair added as a member of the North East Migration Partnership, he was disappointed with the low level of participation in the resettlement programme by other local authorities in the region.

The Headteachers reiterated the positive comments already stated adding that it would be really helpful if the measurable outcomes from an academic, as well as a social viewpoint could be included within the annual report, along with the views of those who had been resettled. The Assistant Director indicated he would explore ways of feeding that information back without identifying individuals as it was important to share the success of the resettlement programme.

The following decision was unanimous.

### **Decision**

- (1) That Hartlepool Virtual School continued to support children and families resettled in Hartlepool from Syria.
- (2) That Hartlepool Virtual School continued to support schools in relation to the teaching of children resettled in Hartlepool from Syria.
- (3) That an annual summary report would be presented to the Children's Services Committee.
- (4) The Assistant Director, Education to explore ways of providing feedback from those who were part of the resettlement programme and the academic outcomes of the children.

## **43. Pupil Performance 2017: Indicative Data** (*Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*)

### **Type of decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of report**

To provide a summary of the indicative pupil performance measures for Hartlepool from public examinations in the summer of 2017.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The report followed on from the Member Briefing that was held on 11 October 2017. The pupil performance measures for 2016 and indicative performance figures for 2017, along with national averages were known and were included within Appendix A. The headline performance measures of a Good Level of Development (GLD) at the end of early years and the Phonics Screening Check at the end of Year 1 were now well embedded in primary schools.

The Assistant Director, Education reported that confirmation of a lot more primary national benchmarks had been provided along with the release of national key stage 4 performance tables since the production of this report. A further report would be submitted to the Committee early in the new year with more details around where Hartlepool was placed regionally and nationally in relation to primary and secondary outcomes. The Assistant Director confirmed that primary schools continued to perform really well after the dip in performance experienced in 2016. This reflected Hartlepool's resilience to explore new ways of working and adapt to new performance measures. However, it also highlighted that performance in secondary schools was still in need of improvement and it was noted that discussions were ongoing with secondary Headteachers to identify the reasons for this. The Chair reiterated his concerns in relation to the performance of secondary schools along with the new grading system for GCSEs, in particular about grades 4 and 5 being equivalent to a C and about whether secondary schools would be judged on grade 5s and above in the future.

A discussion ensued on the difference in approach between primary and secondary education and the fact that young people did not appear to progress as well as they might when they move into secondary education. The Chair sought clarification on what measures had been put in place to try and deal with this issue. The Assistant Director confirmed that discussions were ongoing with secondary Headteachers and would include learning from good practice in other secondary schools both within and out of the Borough. The Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services commented that the Headteachers within the town were keen to work collaboratively and look at areas of good practice, and there was a willingness to look at areas of potential vulnerability. The Chair reiterated the Committee's commitment to improving the education of young people across Hartlepool and the wish to see all schools rated good or outstanding by Ofsted.

The following decision was unanimous.

### **Decision**

- (1) The report was noted.
- (2) That a further report, or reports, be submitted to the Committee once the national validated data for primary schools and secondary

schools was available for comparison.

#### **44. Review of Hartlepool Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education** *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

##### **Type of decision**

For information.

##### **Purpose of report**

To inform the Committee of the required review of the Hartlepool Agreed Syllabus for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools in Hartlepool for the academic years 2018 to 2023.

##### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The report provided the background including details of the Locally Agreed Syllabus. Each Local Authority must have a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) to advise it on matters connected with Religious Education. SACRE was made up of representatives from faith groups, teachers, Elected Members and Local Authority advisers.

The review process will involve working closely with a Senior Advisor for Religious Education from a neighbouring local authority who had been responsible for the production of the two last Agreed Syllabuses for that local authority. A consultation exercise will be undertaken in Hartlepool with all relevant stakeholders. The Agreed Syllabus sets out advice on what pupils should be taught and the key focus and learning outcomes for each key stage. It also sets out the RE level expected standards of pupils' performance at different ages.

The Assistant Director, Education informed the Committee that a further update report would be submitted to the Committee once the draft Agreed Syllabus for Hartlepool was prepared.

##### **Decision**

The report was noted.

#### **45. Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2016/17** *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

##### **Type of decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of report**

To provide the latest findings of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2016-2017 along seeking approval for the publication of that Assessment as attached at Appendix 1.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The report provided the background to the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. It was noted that the childcare market in Hartlepool was overseen by the Children's Hub who undertake an annual assessment of sufficiency of childcare. Detailed information on the number of childminders, nurseries, holiday schemes and before and after school clubs were provided in the report. It was highlighted that 86% of providers had been judged 'good' or 'outstanding'. Hartlepool continued to perform well in its take up of 2,3,4 year old early education and participation by eligible 2 year olds at 92% and by 3 and 4 year olds at almost 100%. The Assistant Director, Children's and Families commented that there were sufficient places available within the childcare provision available across the town to provide parents with the element of choice.

The following decision was unanimous.

### **Decision**

- (1) That the report was noted.
- (2) That the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment was approved for publication.

## **46. Annual Complaints Report 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017** *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

### **Type of decision**

For information.

### **Purpose of report**

To present the Annual Complaints, Compliments and Representations report for 2016/17.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

Attached at Appendix 1 was an analysis of complaints and compliments and demonstrated learning that had occurred from complaints and actions implemented as a result. The Assistant Director, Children and Families referred to the Appendix which showed that a total of 18 complaints had been received during 2016/17. Of these one was

withdrawn and 2 complainants failed to engage with the process. The number of complaints received had decreased by 8 from last year.

Of the 15 complaints investigated, 13 had been concluded with the 2 remaining carried forward into 2017/18. The outcome of the investigated complaints was outlined in the report.

**Decision**

The report was noted.

**47. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

None.

The meeting concluded at 5.50 pm

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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