

# **CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

24 October 2018

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

Councillor: Brenda Harrison (In the Chair)

Councillors: John Lauderdale, Sue Little, Shane Moore, and Katie Trueman

Co-opted members:

Jo Heaton, C of E Diocesan Representative  
Mark Tilling, Secondary Schools Head Representative  
David Turner, Primary Schools Head Representative

Also in attendance:

Sue Sharpe, Headteacher, Lynnfield Primary School

Officers: Mark Patton, Assistant Director, Education  
Danielle Swainston, Assistant Director, Joint Commissioning  
Zoe McKenna, Broadening Horizons Officer  
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **29. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stephen Thomas (Chair of Adult Services Committee), Zoe Westley (Special Schools Head Representative) and Evelyn Leck (Healthwatch).

### **30. Declarations of Interest**

The Headteachers declared their usual personal interest.

### **31. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2018**

Received.

## **32. Young People Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) 2017-18** *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

### **Type of decision**

For Information.

### **Purpose of report**

To provide an update on the progress in relation to reducing the number of young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or are Not Known (these are young people that the team is not able to contact) and compare this to regional and national performance.

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

The Broadening Horizons Officer presented a detailed and comprehensive report which included a breakdown of the percentage of young people not in education, employment or training and whose activity was not known in Hartlepool compared to the sub regional, regional and national picture across Hartlepool, Tees Valley, the North East and England. In addition to this, a breakdown across the same area, as well as by academic age was provided for the percentage of the cohort that was not known to the Authority. Information on the number of young people not in education, employment or training by academic age and Hartlepool school attended as of January 2018 was detailed in the report. A comparison was also provided for the number of young people not available for education, employment or training for the past three years and the reasons for their unavailability. Further information was provided on the number of people aged 19 and under who had been assessed as having a learning difficulty and/or disability and who were NEET or Not Known at the end of January 2016-18. Details of the annual activity survey were provided in the report and noted that the percentage of young people progressing to an apprenticeship was a mixed picture across all four local authorities with three out of the four local authorities noticing a reduction in the percentage of young people in training. Both Redcar and Hartlepool had a slight increase in the percentage of young people who became NEET, however there had been a reduction in the number of people who they could not contact (Not Knowns).

Further detailed information was provided in the report about destination measures. These show clear and comparable information on the success of schools and colleges in helping their young people take qualifications that offer them the best opportunity to continue in education, employment or training.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Broadening Horizons Officer confirmed that the 'Not Known' figures were collated using the number of young people who have left school and were known to be

attending further education, secured employment or undertaking training. An example of being 'Not Known' was a where a young person had moved out of the town or become homeless and therefore become 'Not Known' (uncontactable) in relation to NEET figures. It was noted that there was support for all young people who were NEET, including those who become homeless, through the One Stop Shop which was available as a drop-in provision.

The Chair sought clarification on the interaction and relationship with the local schools and colleges. The Broadening Horizons Officer confirmed that the Team had really positive relationships with all schools and worked closely with local colleges and young people to ensure they progress onto the right course for them and reduce the drop-out rate.

A Headteacher highlighted the favourable comparison with the Hartlepool NEET figures against the regional figures and suggested that the information provided in the report be circulated to all Headteachers.

A discussion ensued on the support provided to young carers and the Assistant Director, Joint Commissioning confirmed that this would be examined further as part of the review of the Carers' Strategy.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair passed on the thanks to the Broadening Horizons Officer and the whole team for their hard work and commitment in supporting young people as they leave school.

### **Decision**

- (1) The contents of the report were noted.
- (2) That the report be circulated to all Headteachers.

## **33. Partnership Working with Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) – Placed Based Social Action** (Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)

### **Type of decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of report**

To ask Members to support a partnership approach which supports the Council's aim to reduce child and family poverty.

To ask Members to approve Officers involvement in the development of a Placed Based Social Action Plan/Bid.

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

The report provided an outline to the partnership working between

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) and the Council over the last few years. It was noted that JRF had been successful in the first round of an application for funding from the Big Lottery Fund and were one of 20 areas in England chosen to develop a social action plan which will aim to develop solutions to address poverty in Hartlepool. It was noted that this was an opportunity for agencies, community members and the local authority to think and work together and access funding to deliver change locally.

Due to the restrictions of the application process, JRF were leading the bid with partners being asked to support. JRF asked the Council to support them and had produced a partnership agreement which was attached at Appendix A.

### **Decision**

That the development of a Placed Based Social Action Plan/Bid be supported.

## **34. Proposed Federation of Golden Flatts and Lynnfield Primary Schools** *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of report**

To receive notification of the Golden Flatts and Lynnfield Primary Schools with regard to their joint proposal to form a federation between the two schools.

To seek approval of the Children's Services Committee to the proposed Instrument of Government for the new federation in accordance with the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 as amended by the School Governance (Constitution and Federation) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

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

The background to the proposal to establish a formal federation between Golden Flatts and Lynnfield Primary Schools was outlined in the report. Following the conclusion of the consultation exercise, both governing bodies had resolved to proceed with the proposals to federate as published and the Committee was asked to note this decision. As part of this process, a new Instrument of Government must be prepared setting out the constitution of the new governing body and this was attached as Appendix A for consideration and approval by the Committee.

In addition, following consideration of the prospective roles, governor positions and skills required for the new federated governing body, the governing body have recommended that the current local authority governor at Golden Flatts Primary School, named in confidential Appendix B be recommended for the position as the local authority governor on the new governing body. **This item contained exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government), (Access to Information), (Variations Order 2006) namely, information relating to any individual (para 1).**

The Chair commented that it was great to see two schools working together. The Headteacher from Lynnfield Primary School confirmed that the schools were already working closely together and this had proven invaluable in relation to the Continued Professional Development of the teachers, and this would continue with the schools working together on areas of commonality while continuing to do some things separately in line with the individual needs of the schools.

#### **Decision**

- (1) The decisions of the governing bodies of Golden Flatts and Lynnfield Primary Schools to proceed with their proposals for federation as originally published was noted.
- (2) The Instrument of Government for the new federation of Golden Flatts Primary School and Lynnfield Primary School was approved.
- (3) The nomination of the person named in confidential Appendix B as the local authority governor on the new federation was agreed.

### **35. Reconstitution of the Management Committee of Hartlepool Pupil Referral Unit** *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

#### **Type of decision**

Non key.

#### **Purpose of report**

To seek approval of the Children's Services Committee to the reconstitution of the Management Committee of the Pupil Referral Unit in accordance with the Education (Pupil Referral Units) (Management Committees etc) (England) Regulations 2007 and in accordance with the Pupil Referral units (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2012.

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

The background to the review of the Management Committee of the Pupil Referral Unit was outlined in the report. The proportion of places

allocated to each category of member on the Committee was as follows:

- a) Community members: the number of places must exceed all other members by one or more;
- b) Parent members: at least one but no more than one fifth;
- c) Local Authority Members: at least one place but no more than one third;
- d) Staff members: at least one place, but no more than one third, including the teacher in charge.

It was proposed to reduce this number from 9 to 6 with the number of staff members reduced from 3 to 2. The numbers of members in other categories would remain the same. Representatives would normally serve for a period of four years and it was proposed that the community members serve for a period of two years.

One of the Headteacher representatives sought clarification on the appointment of the parent member on the Management Committee. The Assistant Director, Education responded that the parent member was usually a parent of a pupil who attends the PRU for an extended time such as young people receiving their education through the Home and Hospital Service.

It was noted that the Community Members of the Committee were appointed through a similar process to a school governing body with applications being invited from the local community, or through actively approaching members of the wider community with the necessary skills and experience.

The Chair concluded by acknowledging that the PRU was such an important facility providing education in what was one of the most challenging sectors within education, that a robust Management Committee was essential to support the effective provision of that education.

### **Decision**

The reconstitution of the Management Committee of Hartlepool Pupil Referral Unit in accordance with the details set out in Appendix 1 was approved.

## **36. Annual Complaints Report 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018** *(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 2017/18.

### **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, Joint Commissioning referred to the Appendix which showed that a total of 18 complaints had been received during 2017/18. The number of complaints received had remained the same last year.

Of the 18 complaints investigated, 14 had been concluded with the 4 remaining carried forward into 2018/19. The outcome of the investigated complaints was outlined in the report.

A Member highlighted the compliments received by the Department which were included within the report, and congratulated Officers on those. The Chair acknowledged the hard work and commitment of all Officers in fully investigating all complaints received and learning from them to inform future service development.

### **Decision**

The contents of the Annual Complaints, Compliments and Representations report were noted and would be published online.

## **37. Newly Qualified Teacher's Retention – Verbal Update** *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

### **Type of decision**

For Information.

### **Purpose of report**

To provide Members with an update on the retention of Newly Qualified Teachers as the result of a request by the Committee on 20 February 2018.

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

The Assistant Director, Education indicated that there were two awarding bodies for granting NQT status used by Hartlepool schools: St John Vianney Teaching School and a Stockton based organisation. Over the last 3 years, the numbers of NQT granted by St John Vianney had fallen in line with national trends from 54-42. However, the majority of those had remained within the teaching profession in Hartlepool. From the

numbers who had not remained in Hartlepool, some had remained within the Tees Valley area with a small number moving out of the area.

From the Stockton based awarding body, over the same period the number of NQTs in primary schools had fallen from 5 to 1 and within secondary schools from 16 to 13. Again the majority remained within the teaching profession within Hartlepool.

The Chair commented that there had been some concerns that on a national basis, a lot of teachers were leaving the profession within 5 years but the above figures had shown that the retention of teachers was a lot more positive in Hartlepool. One of the Headteacher representatives in attendance commented that NQTs were recruited depending on the needs of the individual school and with the continuous reduction in schools' budgets, recruitment was reducing.

A discussion ensued on recruitment of NQTs through the Teach First Programme and the Assistant Director, Education indicated that the local authority did not hold any figures relating to the number of NQTs from the Programme but that further information could be sought from Teach First directly.

One of the Headteachers' representatives commented that one of the key factors in the retention of female teachers for example, could be the availability of flexible or part-time working after maternity leave. It was recognised that whilst part-time working could be explored where requested, it would be difficult to provide flexible working hours in view of the timetabling of lessons required for pupils across a school.

### **Decision**

The update provided was noted.

## **38. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

There were no items the Chair considered urgent.

The Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 13 November 2018 at 4.00pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

The meeting concluded at 4.55pm

**H MARTIN**

**INTERIM CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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