

## North Yorkshire County Council

### Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 6 September 2019 at 10am at County Hall, Northallerton.

**Present:** County Councillor Janet Jefferson in the Chair.

County Councillors: Val Arnold, Stephanie Duckett, David Jeffels (as substitute for Joe Plant) Richard Musgrave and Annabel Wilkinson.

Co-opted Members: Dr Tom Cavell-Taylor, David Sharp (North Yorkshire Youth) and David Watson (Voluntary Sector).

Officers: Ray Busby (Scrutiny Officer (Central Services)), Stuart Carlton (Corporate Director Children and Young Peoples Services), Carol-Ann Howe, Head of Inclusion Support Services, Inclusion (CYPS), Jane le Sage, Assistant Director, Inclusion (CYPS).

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors, Lindsay Burr MBE, Gill Quinn, Zoe Metcalfe, Cliff Lunn, John Mann and Stuart Martin MBE

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**Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book**

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#### **177. Minutes**

##### **Resolved –**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2019 having been printed and circulated be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **178. Any Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest to note.

#### **179. Public Questions**

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

#### **180. North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership**

Considered –

Presentation by Professor Maggie Atkinson, Independent Chair of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership giving her assessment of how the new regulations for multi-agency safeguarding have been implemented locally

Also present for this item was James Parkes, NYSCB Board Manager, CYPS.

In response to questions Maggie confirmed that whilst the process of revising governance arrangements was well under way when she was appointed, she was kept briefed and the final set-up was one she would have advocated for in any event. Under these new arrangements, known as the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, each key partner has a clear and unambiguous responsibility. Her initial impression after having been in post for a short while was that this is a healthy, self-critical system of safeguarding with a commitment to honest and open self-evaluation. Her key points were:

- She praised the ambition and practice to move towards early help and preventative work; in this context, No Wrong Door is very much a national exemplar in her view.
- The commitment to work in communities is to be applauded.
- The way the involvement and participation of young people is carried out is a best practice leader. The system is particularly strong in this area.
- A strong commitment towards multi-agency child exploitation practice and procedures is evident.
- There is good sharing and monitoring of information amongst organisations, practitioners and organisations.
- There is strong partnership leadership and commitment.

Members commented on the safeguarding implications of the number of out-county placements in the North Yorkshire area. It was explained that whilst the responsibility rests with the appointing authority, closer relationships with the county council and robust MACE arrangements were ensuring as far as possible that children were safe when placed in establishments within the county area.

Comments at the meeting reassured members that partners operating under the new partnership arrangements believe the new governance structures allow for greater clarity and accountability. In particular, voluntary sector representatives said that from their perspective reporting arrangements - both in terms of individual cases and wider issues about safeguarding generally - were easier to follow.

#### **Resolved –**

- a) That the report be received.
- b) That in her statement to council the Chairman emphasise that members, on the basis of what they heard at the meeting, and having taken all that Professor Maggie Atkinson said, concluded that appropriate measures are being taken by the Safeguarding Partnership to ensure high standards of child protection across all agencies, placing children at the centre of local safeguarding arrangements and frontline practice.
- c) Rather than wait another 12 months, the committee would like to meet up much sooner with Maggie for a follow-up discussion on what impact the new arrangements have had in practice.

#### **181. Medical Education Service – Proposed New Model**

Considered –

- a) Presentation by the Director for Childrens Services on the impending consultation exercise on a proposed Medical Education Service (MES) that would enable a more flexible delivery model for those children/young people who cannot access education because of medical needs. It has been approved for review as part of the Strategic Plan.
- b) Report by the Scrutiny Team Leader advising on the connection between the committee's intention to look at the education of children with long term conditions and the directorate's proposals for a Medial Education Service..

Jane le Sage and Carol Ann-Howe explained that the ambition is for a more flexible delivery model for those children/young people who cannot access education because of medical needs.

There is an increased range of options for medical tuition, including digital solutions, personal home tuition and group education. All of which will contribute to the delivery of a bespoke package for each child. More regular review meetings will be held with pupils, their families, health professionals and their school.

We should see a flexible pupil and family centred joined up approach which not only reflects pupil's needs by delivering the right amount of education, but one that does so at the right time and through the right choice of educational provision. The new model proposes a greater involvement of the pupil's home school, enabling relationships to be maintained and ensure the school has a greater accountability for their own pupils.

Earlier professional intervention, greater health and school involvement, and a more bespoke range of options will be achieved through a collaborative approach for families and strengthen new pathways. The support ranges from providing short term education enabling pupils to return to their schools with the necessary support as soon as they are able, through to a broad range of tutor packages and a variety of delivery styles that include a bespoke medically-led intervention for the most complex children and young people. The range of new technology, particularly digital ones, are impressive.

**Resolved –**

- a) That the report be received.
- b) That in her statement to council the Chairman report that members believed these comprehensive proposals to be comprehensive and that they have the committee's wholehearted support.

**182. 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 the content of the Work Programme.
- b) It was agreed that:

- The session on Young People with additional needs Transitioning to Adulthood be held on the rising on this committee's planned meeting on the 6 December 2019.
- A workshop on Elective Home Education be held on 1 November at 2pm

The meeting concluded at 12.45pm  
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