

# SCRUTINY ADVISORY BOARD – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

**Meeting date: 20 March 2020**

**From: Executive Director Corporate Customer and Communities**

## Board Briefing

### 1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an overview of the Board's business and opportunities for further scrutiny.

### 2.0 Issues for Scrutiny

- 2.1 To consider the Cabinet Forward Plan and agree any items for pre-scrutiny.
- 2.2 To consider the request from Scrutiny Management Board to look at the recommendations from the 2016 Task and Finish Group on Autism.
- 2.3 To consider the recent publication of a report by the Children's Commissioner on children's health inequalities for any issues relevant for scrutiny in Cumbria.

### 3.0 Background

- 3.1 Over the next three months Cabinet will have considered six items which touch on the lives of children and young people. The Board is asked to consider any pre-scrutiny they would like to see for any of these items.

ITEM	KEY DECISION	RELEVANT CABINET MEMBER	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	CABINET
Resourced Provision	YES	Sue Sanderson	John Readman	19/3/20
Consultation on the Potential Closure of Bram Longstaffe Nursery School	YES	Sue Sanderson	John Readman	23/4/20
Council Plan Delivery Plan 2020/21	YES	Stewart Young	Dawn Roberts	23/4/20

UK Refugee Resettlement Scheme	YES	Deborah Earl	Dawn Roberts	23/4/20
Proposed Change of Age Range Wigton Infant School	YES	Sue Sanderson	John Readman	23/4/20
Cumbria County Council Equality Objectives (2020-24)	YES	Janet Willis	Dawn Roberts	11/6/20

3.2 Scrutiny Management Board have requested that the Children and Young People's Board receives an update on progress relating to the Recommendations from the Task and Finish Group on Autism from 2016. The purpose is to look at the longer term legacy of the issues that were raised in the Task and Finish Group.

- Recommendation 1: The Task Group to receive a report updating them on progress in relation to a number of areas of concern, and to report back to Scrutiny Management Board.
- Recommendation 2: Children and Young People's Scrutiny Advisory Board to receive a more detailed report on schooling for children and young people diagnosed on the autistic spectrum.
- Recommendation 3: Local Committees to promote local awareness of autism, and to ensure that there is at least one Member on each committee who takes a lead role in championing the needs of children and young people with autism and their families.
- Recommendation 4: Work with the Council's Apprenticeship programme and Inspira to look at how to maximise opportunities for young people with autism to enter the labour market and get jobs that play to their individual strengths.

3.3 In relation to recommendations 1 and 2, the Board has been scrutinising the SEND Improvement Plan, which has incorporated many of the issues that was covered by the Task and Finish Group. Ongoing scrutiny of the Improvement Plan will continue to be a priority for the Board, and any concerns about Autism relating to this will be reported back to SMB.

3.4 In relation to recommendation 3. Local Committees now have an active group of Autism Member Champions. They meet regularly with officers and have a programme of activity. Their achievements are summarised in a case study that will be included in the Scrutiny Annual Report 2020.

3.5 In relation to recommendation 4, the Council has been successful in recruiting a number of apprentices with autism. If the Board seeks more detailed information this can be sought from the Council's apprenticeship team.

- 3.6 This month the Children's Commissioner has published a briefing on health inequalities for children. The briefing looks at health inequalities at birth, early years and school age, with a focus on the continued impact of deprivation and child poverty on health outcomes for children. Members are asked to consider the report and whether it raises any issues for the Board to scrutinise locally.

Joel Rasbash

**Strategic Policy and Scrutiny Advisor**

20/3/20

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*Please ensure that every part of this section where there is an asterisk\* is completed in accordance with the instructions before sending the report to Member Services, following which please delete this sentence.*

### **Appendices**

Children's Commissioner Health Inequalities Briefing 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

### **Previous Relevant Council or Executive Decisions [including Local Committees]**

No previous relevant decisions.

### **Background Papers**

No background papers.

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