

SCRUTINY ADVISORY BOARD – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Meeting date: 7th December 2018

From: Executive Director Corporate, Customer and Community Services

Board Briefing

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Scrutiny on the activity of the Board and relevant items in the Cabinet Forward Plan.

2.0 Issues for Scrutiny

2.1 To note the contents of the discussion on School Admissions.

2.2 To suggest items for the 2019 Scrutiny Advisory Board agenda.

2.3 To consider the item referred from Scrutiny Performance Working Group (see 3.3 below).

3.0 Background

3.1 Following the previous Board in September Members met privately with Dan Barton Assistant Director Education and Skills to discuss the School Placement policy. This was a recommendation from the call-in that took place in December 2017. The following were the key issues Members raised:

- Discussion of Carlisle Diocese's proposal to remove faith as a criterion for applying to a Church of England school. There was no objection to this from Members, as this had come from the Diocese. Some Members raised the issue of the feasibility of this for Catholic schools as there are less schools for Catholic parents to choose from in the catchment area. Other Member, however, disagreed with the principle of faith based schools.
- Brook Street's falling pupil roll was discussed as a possible consequence of Brexit. The school has been the main choice in Carlisle for EU citizens to place their children. It was also stressed that the area is one of Cumbria's most transient with higher percentage of rented

accommodation than most of the county. So there may be less predictability of future pupil rolls than other areas.

- Members debated the long term sustainability of the current system of small schools in Cumbria, particularly with increasing pressure on budgets.
- 3.2 Members will be receiving a briefing on the SEND self-assessment for the Ofsted Local Inspection. The Council has not yet been notified of an inspection, but one is due. The discussion points and recommendations will be reported on in the February Board briefing.
- 3.3 The most recent meeting of the Scrutiny Performance Working Group raised the question of the Children’s Services budget pressure and wanted to confirm what arrangements are in place between Scrutiny and the Corporate Parenting Board to oversee the delivery of the CLA Sufficiency Strategy. The proposal being that CPB would primarily focus on the overall delivery, and that Scrutiny would receive this as part of the update from the Executive Director on Children’s Improvement.
- 3.4 In 2019 the following items have been identified to come to the Board:
- Regular items on Children’s Improvement, Cabinet Member updates.
 - Presentation from Barnardo’s on their report ‘Growing Up in Cumbria.’
 - Child Sexual Exploitation Update.
 - The Board are expected to co-host a Task and Finish Group with Health Scrutiny on the proposed changes to 0-19 health services. This will be part of the commissioning of that service and a date will be agreed in the new year.
- 3.5 Below are the reports going to Cabinet over the next 3 months that are relevant to the Board.

ITEM	CABINET
School Funding Formula 2019-20	20/12/18
Proposed expansion of Thursby Primary School	20/12/18
School Admission Arrangements 2020/21	20/12/18
Children Looked After Strategy	20/12/18
Regional Adoption Agency - Outline Business Case	7/2/19

Joel Rasbash
Strategic Policy and Scrutiny Advisor
26/11/18

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

No appendices.

Previous Relevant Council or Executive Decisions [including Local Committees]

No previous relevant decisions.

Background Papers

No background papers.

Contact: Joel Rasbash, joel.rasbash@cumbria.gov.uk